

Gc
974.702
P69p
1753347

M

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 02210 5958



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2015

<https://archive.org/details/historyofplattsu00palm>

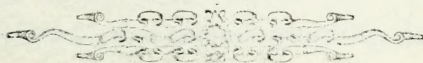
HISTORY

OF

PLATTSBURGH,

N. Y.,

FROM ITS FIRST SETTLEMENT TO JAN. 1, 1876.



PLATTSBURGH, N. Y.

1877.

PLATTSBURGH—(VILLAGE)

1753347

INTRODUCTORY.

In the year 1871 a series of articles were prepared by Peter S. Palmer and published in the *Plattsburgh Republican* under the name of "Northern New York Historical Society Papers." Paper "one," of that series, which referred principally to the village of Plattsburgh, is reproduced in the following pages.

PLATTSBURGH — (VILLAGE).

ONE hundred and seven years ago the English government issued a mandamus for thirty thousand acres of land, lying on the west side of Lake Champlain, to be surveyed to Count Charles de Fredenburgh. The warrant bears date January 11, 1769. De Fredenburgh had, however, several years prior to this, selected the tract covered by the warrant and commenced improvements upon it, by the erection of a comfortable dwelling-house on the south bank of the river Saranac, at its mouth, and of a saw-mill, at the rapids, three miles above, yet known as "Fredenburgh's Falls."¹ From papers in the land-office, it appears that on the 19th of August, 1767, Fredenburgh and nineteen associates petitioned for a grant of 20,000 acres of land, at Cumberland Bay, on the west of Lake Champlain, for which a warrant of survey was issued January 27, 1768 (Vol. XXIV.). On the 11th of January, 1769, a mandamus was issued, granting de Fredenburgh 30,000 acres, which was followed on the 24th of May by a warrant of survey, to lay out the 30,000 acres on the west side of the lake, beginning at a point opposite the island of Valcour, including both banks of the "Saranak" River as far as the high falls, the sandy beach and creek, and also the whole point of Cumberland Bay, commonly

¹ See recital in Patent of Plattsburgh. The dwelling-house occupied by de Fredenburgh, stood near the site of the late United States Hotel.

called *Squinanton*, or Cumberland Head (Vol. XXXVII.). The value of this tract seems to have been well known at that time, as the land papers show that on the 5th of April, 1769, William Kelley, in behalf of Lord Viscount Townsend and twenty-four associates, petitioned for a grant of 25,000 acres, bounded east by Cumberland Bay and extending west on both sides of the Saranac River, including the land covered by the warrant of survey, of January 27, 1768, above mentioned (Vol. XXV.).

De Fredenburg, who had been a captain in the British army, was a person of repute and of some pecuniary means. He was one of the gentlemen composing the retinue of Gov. Moore and Gen. Carlton, at the time they visited Lake Champlain in the autumn of 1766, to establish the boundary line between the Provinces of New York and Canada. His dwelling on the banks of the Saranac is described as having been sumptuously furnished, and the seat of refinement and taste. Here, surrounded by the families of his workmen, who dwelt in rude cabins near the lake or at the "Falls," he lived with his wife and children in almost unbroken solitude, looking forward to the day when his broad acres would be cleared and his possessions on the Saranac should produce baronial wealth.

De Fredenburgh's nearest neighbors at this time were John La Frombois, who lived on the shore of the lake, a short distance south from Sax's Landing, in Chazy, and William Hay and Henry Cross, who resided on Friswell's Patent, opposite the island of Valcour. As early as 1766 a small cabin had been erected by William

Gilliland, on lands claimed by him at the mouth of the Salmon River, for the purpose of preventing an encroachment by De Frèdenburgh in that direction. It was never permanently occupied.¹ I have no data from which to ascertain the duration of De Fredenburgh's residence, or the extent of the improvements made by him. He removed his family to Montreal a short time before the commencement of the war of the Revolution, and returned alone to protect his property. About this time the house and mill were burnt down, and De Fredenburgh mysteriously disappeared. No subsequent settlement was made in this immediate vicinity until the year 1785.

In 1781, the Legislature of the State of New York, in order to encourage the raising of troops for the defense of the State, passed certain acts, offering bounties of unappropriated lands to such officers and soldiers as should enlist within a time specified. These bounties were divided into rights of 500 acres each, and there was a provision in the act, that whenever any number of persons entitled collectively to sixty-one rights, or 30,500 acres, should join in a location, the lands so located should be laid out in a township of seven miles square, and that the remaining 860 acres in such township should be reserved for gospel and school purposes.

In 1784, Zephaniah Platt, of Poughkeepsie, in behalf of himself and thirty-two associates, who collectively had acquired the requisite number of "rights," located them upon the tract of land which had been claimed by De

¹ "Watson's Champlain Valley," pp. 40, 133.

Fredenburgh under his warrant, and, on the 12th of August of that year, procured the requisite certificate from the Surveyor-General, that the lands were vacant and unappropriated. Letters - Patent were issued to Zephaniah Platt, on the 26th day of October, 1784. About the same time, Mr. Platt obtained from the State, in behalf of himself, Nathaniel Platt and Simon R. Reeves, a patent for two thousand acres of land, including Cumberland Head, and extending north to lands belonging to Beekman and company.¹

These two tracts were incorporated into a town called Plattsburgh, on the 4th day of April, 1785. Three years later the boundaries of the town were extended so as to include the territory embraced within the limits of the present towns of Beekmantown, Dannemora, Saranac, and Schuyler Falls, with a part of Peru and Black Brook, and a small portion of the county of Franklin.

On the 29th day of October, 1784, three days after the Patent of Plattsburgh had been issued, the proprietors met at the inn of John Simmons, in the city of New York, to devise plans to secure the immediate settlement of the lands—an object of much importance, as the patent contained a condition requiring the patentee to “put one settler upon every six hundred acres of land in the tract, within three years after its date,” and declaring that “for

¹ De Fredenburgh's children applied unsuccessfully to the legislature, at a later period, for recognition of their title to the tract claimed by their father. The title to Cumberland Head had been claimed by William Gilliland, under assignment from Lieut. Lowe, an officer who had served under the colony of New York, in the French and Indian war. Lowe's claim was not recognized by the State. “Watson's Champlain Valley,” pp. 118, 193.

non-compliance in making such settlement," the lands granted would revert to the State. At this meeting a proposition was made to give to such of the proprietors as should within two years from that time build a dam and mills upon the Saranac, the exclusive title to the Fredenburgh Falls mill-lot of fifty acres, and to one hundred acres lying on the north side of the river at its mouth. This proposition was accepted by Zephaniah Platt, Peter Tappen, Zaccheus Newcomb, Nathaniel Platt, Platt Rogers, Charles Platt, Thomas Treadwell, Simon R. Reeves, Melancton Smith, Jonathan Lawrence, Israel Smith and John Addams, twelve of the associates who met at the house of Judge Zephaniah Platt in Poughkeepsie on the 30th December, 1784, and mutually agreed "to be jointly concerned in the building of a saw-mill, grist-mill and a forge on the river Saranac the next summer, each to advance an equal proportion of money. They also agreed to build a "petty auger" (pirogue) of a moderate size, and to purchase twine for a seine. Judge Platt was appointed agent for the company. The expense was estimated at \$541, as follows:—Millstones, \$100; Irons, \$125; Nails, \$37.50; Iron, \$16; Transportation, \$15; Saw, \$7.50; Bolting cloth, \$15; Pork, \$80; Bread, \$65; Rum \$80.¹ On the 6th February, 1785, the title to the 100 acres and to the Fredenburgh Falls mill-lot was vested in the twelve by deed. It was the intention of the company to procure the iron ore for the forge from a bed owned by the State, lying on the borders of the lake, about eight miles north of Crown Point, known as the

¹ Eighty dollars for rum and only sixty-five for bread! but they were building a grist-mill.

"Skeene's ore bed;" [Laws of 1784, chapter 63, § 4.] and, for this purpose, they obtained permission from the State to take ore from that bed for the term of ten years. Laws of 1785, chapter 57, § 3.]

Mr. William Gilliland, who visited this section in 1763, says of the Saranac: "Proceeded about two miles up this river, which proved to be much larger than the Bouquet, and rapid from its mouth up; at about 400 yards from the lake there is a rift, where the water may be conveniently lifted, and, by carrying it about 200 yards, will produce a fall of about 10 feet, which with two feet that may be raised by a small stony dam, will be enough for a mill."¹ At the head of these rapids the dam was built. It crossed the stream at the bend of the river, forty or fifty rods above the present dam. A forge was erected on the west side of the river, near the dam, and a small saw-mill, and a grist-mill some twenty or thirty rods below. These mills were supplied with water through a flume, passing along the margin of the river. The dam was about eight feet in height.

The frame of the saw-mill was raised on Monday, the 22d of June, 1785, and as the last pin was driven home, Cornelius Haight, one of the workmen, proclaimed the mill "*the glory of the Saranac*."

The proprietors also set apart 997 acres, as gift lots, to the first persons who should settle on the patent, and laid out 30 lots of 100 acres each, to be sold at a "low rate." These lots included some of the best lands in the township. The "gift lots" were twelve in number. Number one, which

¹ "Watson's Champlain Valley," p. 117.

contained 61 acres, lay north and adjoining Cornelia Street, and extended from the Convent D'Youville to the lake shore. This lot was given to Charles Platt, who also received lot two, containing 67 acres, which adjoined number one on the north. Next north was number three, containing 100 acres, conveyed to Thomas Allen. This lot extended as far west as the Bailey farm. Jabez Pettit received number four, which also extended from the lake shore to the line of the Bailey farm, and was bounded on the north by the Boynton road. Numbers five, six, seven and eight contained 81 acres each, and were given, in the order named, to Kinner Newcomb, Mr. Sexton, John B. Hartwick, and Derrick Webb, and included all the territory lying west of Catherine Street, to an extension south of the east bounds of the school lot. Number nine contained 81 acres, and was given to Cyrenus Newcomb. This lot was bounded by the school lot on the west and by the old Beekmantown road on the east. Number ten, which contained 50 acres, lay on the opposite side of this road, and included the Bailey homestead farm and a portion of the Boynton farm, lying south of the Boynton road. This was given to Moses Soper. Jacob Ferris received number eleven, containing 120 acres, including all the territory on the east side of the river, extending south as far as the bend of the river, near old Fort Brown. This lot extended twenty-five feet into the river, and included one-half its water power. Number twelve, which was also given to Charles Platt, who received numbers one and two, contained 94 acres. This lot lay north of the Boynton road and included the east portion of the farm lately owned by Mr. Hewitt.

The 30 lots of 100 acres each, set apart to be sold at a "low rate," were also advantageously located, including all the territory on the Boynton road as far west as the "Glebe lot," and that on the Plank Road and Rugar Street, as far west as Thorn's corners. Of these lots there had been sold, as early as August 23, 1785, on the Boynton road, lot one to Peter Roberts, lot two to Charles McCreedy, lot three to John Kelly, lot five to Melancton L. Woolsey, and lots seven and eight to William Mitchell. On the west road, now the plank road, lot ten to Daniel Averill, lot eleven to Joseph Wait, lot seventeen to Simeon Newcomb, lot eighteen to Daniel Newcomb, lot fourteen to Mr. Saxton; and on the south road or Rugar Street, lots nine, thirteen and fifteen, to Daniel Averill, Nathan Averill, and Daniel Averill, Jr., and lot twenty to Samuel Beeman.

On the 23d day of August, the proprietors divided 24,300 acres among themselves. The division embraced 81 lots, one-third containing 200 acres, one-third 300 acres, and the remaining one-third 400 acres each. The apportionment was made by ballot. Simon R. Reeves drew lots 6, 31, 58, 10, 33, 77, 19, 46, 72—2,700 acres. Simon R. Reeves and John Addams, numbers 15, 40, 74—900 acres. Zacheus Newcomb, 16, 30, 59,—900 acres. Isreal and Samuel Smith, 21, 51, 73—900 acres. Zephaniah Platt, 20, 47, 68, 22, 29, 65, 1, 52, 63, 3, 42, 66—3,600 acres. John Addams, 5, 39, 55,—900 acres. Burnett Miller and Son, 14, 35, 62—900 acres. Melancton Smith, 23, 38, 69—900 acres. Charles Platt and Platt Rogers, 12, 48, 60—900 acres. Thomas Storm and Lewis Barton, 7, 32, 56,—900 acres. Platt Rogers, 17, 43, 67—900

acres. Peter Taylor, Benjamin Smith and Albert Andrance, 2, 28, 57—900 acres. Benjamin Walker, John Berrien, and Andrew Billings, 25, 37, 78—900 acres. Nathaniel Platt, 11, 50, 76, 79, 36, 64, 8, 27, 54, 4, 41, 81—3,600. Nathaniel Tom, Jonathan Lawrence, and Ebenezer Mott, 13, 44, 75—900 acres. Benjamin Calkins, Benjamin Titus, and Jacobus and Samuel Swartout, 26, 80, 70—900 acres. William Floyd, Ezra L'Homedieu, and John Smith, 18, 49, 53—900 acres. Thomas Treadwell, 24, 45, 71—900 acres, and Philip Schuyler and Nathaniel Northrup, 9, 34, 61—900 acres.

Prior to this division, the town had been organized and town officers duly elected. The first town meeting was held at the dwelling-house of Charles Platt, on the third Tuesday of June, 1785. Mr. Platt was elected Supervisor, and Zaccheus Newcomb, Nathaniel Platt, and Platt Rogers, Commissioners of Highways. On the 1st day of October, the Commissioners made return to the town clerk of the public highways laid out in the town. Many of these roads are still in existence, and form the principal highways of the town. A number, however, which appear to have been laid out at this time, were never opened.

The earliest complete record of town officers I have found are those for the year 1786. The town meeting was held on Tuesday, the 3d day of April. Charles Platt was elected Supervisor; Kinner Newcomb, John Ransom, and Jacob Ferris, Assessors; John Ransom, Town Clerk; Darick Webb, Jonas Allen, and Jacob Ferris, Overseers of the Poor; Samuel Beeman, Cyrenus New-

comb, and John B. Hartwick, Commissioners of Highways; Darick Webb and Cyrenus Newcomb, Appraisers of Insolvent Estates; Thomas Allen, Allen Smith, and Abraham Montee, Constables; Thomas Allen, Collector; Col. Edward Antill, Capt. Benjamin Mooers, and Major Golvin, Commissioners of Roads in the Northern District; Kinner Newcomb and Lewis Reynolds, Fence Viewers; and Jacob Ferris, Kinner Newcomb, Samuel Beeman, Jonas Allen, Titus Andrus, Joseph Thurber, Capt. Montee, and Mr. Harden, Pathmasters.

Jacob Ferris, who owned the water-power on the east-side of the river, built a saw-mill at the east end of the dam, and a grist-mill a short distance below it. (See Record of Deeds, Liber K., p. 199.) A fulling-mill, dye-house, and mill-house were subsequently erected, on the same side of the river. In November, 1787, Ferris conveyed an undivided half of his water privilege and mills to Benjamin Mooers, and the other half to Theodorus Platt, in October, 1792. On the 8th of November, 1796, Mr. Mooers conveyed his interest in the property to Zephaniah Platt. The mill property on the opposite side of the river had also changed owners. In November, 1797, the title to the one hundred acres, except twelve building lots, laid out by Platt Rogers, as surveyor, in 1791, and the title of so much of the Ferris lot as had been set apart for mill purposes, had become vested in Zephaniah Platt, Theodorus Platt, and Melancton Smith, as tenants in common; Zephaniah Platt owning an undivided half, and the others each a fourth.

In this year, 1797, the old dam at the bend of the

river was torn down, and a new one, about fourteen feet high, was erected on or near the site of the present dam, and new mills built there. (See 17 Johnson's N. Y. Reports, 198.) A race or canal was also dug across to "Clark's Landing," and a forge and fulling-mill were built on the low land near its mouth. The grist-mill, erected about this time, stood near the west end of the dam, about fifty feet back from the street. This mill was destroyed by a freshet a few years afterwards, when the location of the mill was changed to the site of the present stone mill on the east side of the river. At the time of this freshet several persons were engaged in removing the machinery from the mill, when the building fell; all escaped except Daniel Robinson, who was carried down the stream as far as Mr. Saily's ashery, one hundred rods below, where he was rescued by persons standing on the shore. When the water subsided, the millstone was found at the place where Robinson had been drawn out of the river. The "Governor" declared that when he found the mill was tumbling to pieces, he clung to the millstone for safety, and floated upon it to that point. The story seems improbable, still the fact that the stone was found at the place where he landed, is evidence of its truth. This freshet was for many years afterwards referred to as the one "when Gov. Robinson rode down the river on a millstone."

While the mill property was owned by Zephaniah Platt, Theodorus Platt and Melancton Smith, what is now known as the "eight-and-one-half acres mill-lot," was laid out and appropriated to mill purposes. This

included all the mill privileges upon both sides of the river. In December, 1817, the title to the whole property became vested in Levi Platt. The following is the manner in which Judge Platt acquired his title: In 1797, as has been stated, Zephaniah Platt owned one-half, and Theodorus Platt and Melancton Smith each one-fourth. Zephaniah Platt, who died in 1808, devised one-fourth to his son James, who conveyed to Levi in November, 1809. He devised his remaining one-fourth to his son David, who died before his father. This portion went to Zephaniah Platt's eleven surviving children. James, Charles L., and Jonas, conveyed their interest to Levi in 1809-10, and Levi took one forty-fourth as heir. The title to the remaining seven parts was acquired by Levi by commissioner's deed on a sale in partition. Theodorus Platt conveyed his one-fourth, in July, 1803, to Barnadus Swartout, who conveyed to Melancton Smith, Sidney Smith, and John Bleeker, in June, 1804. Bleeker was a party to the partition suit. Melancton and Sidney Smith conveyed their interest to Levi Platt, in December, 1817. The elder Melancton Smith died in possession of his one-fourth, which was subsequently sold on execution against his heirs and devisees, and conveyed by sheriff's deed to John Suydam and Henry S. Wickoff, in November, 1810. Suydam and Wickoff were parties to the partition suit. They also joined in the deed of December, 1817.

In May, 1827, the Bank of Plattsburgh acquired title to all the water-power in the eight-and-one-half acre mill-lot, and also to land lying north of Bridge Street, on

the east side of the river, which was not then considered a portion of the mill property. The Trustees of the Bank subdivided that portion of the eight-and-one-half acre lot adjacent to the river, and the lots on the north side of Bridge Street into eight mill-lots, and after reserving for the grist-mill a supply of water sufficient for eight run of stones, allotted the residue of the water to these mill-lots, in the proportion of one-third to the west side and two-thirds to the east side of the river. The proportion thus allotted to each side was subdivided among the lots lying on the respective sides. On the east side number one, adjoining the dam, and number two, lying between number one and Bridge Street, were each entitled to two-elevenths. Numbers three and four, lying on the north side of Bridge Street, to the same quantity, and number five, which lay north and below the two last, to three-elevenths. On the west side, number six, adjoining the dam, was entitled to one-fifth of the water allotted to that side of the river, and number seven, adjoining but below the dam, and number eight, which fronted on Bridge Street, to two-fifths each.

All of this mill property was sold at public auction, by the trustees, in July, 1829. The grist-mill, and the mill-lots numbers one, six and seven, were purchased by Richard Yates, as trustee for certain State Banks, and the remaining lots by John Palmer. At the time of this sale, a small portion only of this water-power was in use. On the west side of the dam, on lot six, a brick building stood, used as a wool-carding and cloth-dressing establishment. An old saw-mill stood in the stream, just be-

low the dam, on lot seven, and an old building on lot eight, which had been used as an oil-mill.¹ Access was had to the saw-mill over a causeway of slabs, leading from Bridge Street between the river and the oil-mill. These three buildings, with an old rickety saw-mill at the east end of the dam, on lot one, and the grist-mill, were all the works then connected with the water-power at this dam. An old red building stood on the south side of the street near the east end of the bridge, and a small wooden building on the opposite side of the street. A dwelling, which the miller generally occupied, stood on the west side of Green Street in rear of the old Israel Green Hotel, and there were three small dwellings on the south side of a passage-way running along the bank of the river opposite the Upper Island.

Judge Palmer, immediately after his purchase, constructed a flume, for the supply of lots two, three, four, and five. He also, in 1830, built a dam about half a mile further up the river, at the Covered Bridge, on which Mr. Cyrus Waterhouse, the next year, erected a small saw-mill. In 1835, Ashley Clark erected works for sawing marble at this dam. In the spring of 1833, Judge Palmer sold lot "four," on the north side of Bridge Street at the lower dam, to Clark, Reynolds & McGregor, who erected works for sawing marble. A similar building was subsequently erected by Hill, Stephenson & Boardman on lot "five." At these mills, and at the marble mills of Mr. Clark, at the upper dam, large quantities of marble from the Isle La Motte quarries were sawed.

¹ The oil-mill was started by John Mallory, in 1821.

In 1833, Douglass L. Fouquet purchased the east half of lot "three," on which he erected a large wooden building. Here C. S. Bliss & Co. carried on the carding and cloth-dressing business for a short time, when they were succeeded by Hiram J. Bentley, who in 1835 transferred his interest to Mr. Fouquet. At this time (1835) Noyes P. Gregory carried on the carding and cloth-dressing business at the west end of the bridge. Horace Boardman had a small foundry in a stone building erected on number "five;" the marble mill of Clark, McGregor & Co. was in full operation, and the small building at the east end of the bridge, near Fouquet's woollen mill, was occupied by E. H. Barnum as a comb factory. William Palmer and Charles S. Mooers occupied the stone building which had been erected in 1833, on the site of the old oil-mill, as a cotton factory. Cornelius Halsey & Co. had another cotton factory in the brick building at the west end of the dam. Owing to the great difficulty and expense of reaching a southern market during eight months of the year, and the small capacity of these establishments, the manufacture of cotton cloth was soon abandoned. The marble mills were also closed after a few years. At or about this time, Peleg T. Stafford and James Smith had a small machine shop in rear of the Fouquet building. The old saw-mill continued in a dilapidated condition, and was used for custom work only. It continued so until 1846, when F. J. & S. W. Barnard, of Albany, erected a large saw-mill at that place. After C. Halsey & Co. had discontinued the manufacture of cotton cloth, the brick building was

used principally as a wheelwright and cabinetmaker's shop, until about the year 1859, when it was torn down and a saw-mill erected by Mr. Tefft in its place.

Having "glanced" at the early history of that portion of the one hundred acres, which is directly connected with the mill privileges at this place, let us return to the time when the twelve building lots were laid out, in 1791. These lots extended west as far as the west line of the one hundred acres, which was about ten rods east from the present line of Catharine Street, and included all the territory now bounded north by Cornelia Street, south by the brow of the hill in rear of Broad Street, and east by Margaret Street, as laid out between Cornelia and Brinkerhoff Street, and that line continued to the river. They contained in all about forty-three acres of land, and were of uniform depth, east and west, but varied in width from seven to eleven rods. Although these lots were surveyed and apportioned in 1791, I do not find that any portion was occupied until 1797, when Doctor Chauncey Fitch bought number two, north of the present Court House, and the same year erected a dwelling on the east end of the lot. In February of that year, number five was conveyed to Mrs. Phebe Ketchum, who, as appears from the record of deeds, lived on the lot in the month of September following. The next year, William and James Bailey purchased about one-fourth of an acre in the southeast corner of number five, near the present site of Reed's jewelry store, upon which they erected a store, subsequently occupied by Bailey & Platt. Theodorus Platt had a small office, near a deep ravine south o

this store. These buildings fronted upon the unoccupied lands of the mill owners. At that time there were no other buildings in this section of the settlement until you reached the vicinity of the block-house, on the "south road." Near this block house, Peter Roberts had built a blacksmith shop. Beyond were several dwellings erected on one of the gift lots. Prior to 1795, Nathaniel Platt had become the owner of all the land on the south side of Broad Street, west of the "building lots" of the mill proprietors. These he had laid out into 17 building lots, called the city lots, of which 12 lay to the west of the block-house, and 5 to the east.

A building stood on the north bank of the river, a few rods west of the present railroad crossing, then or soon afterwards occupied by Platt & Mooers, as a store. Next east, was the residence of Peter Saily, erected in 1795-6, with a store-house and ashery upon the bank of the river opposite his dwelling. Next east of Mr Saily's, stood a dwelling-house, built by Charles Platt, and then occupied by Benjamin Graves, and beyond were three or four dwellings, and on the bank of the lake a block-house, which was then used as a Court-House and Jail. On the east side of the river, John Clark had built a house upon the site of the old Fredenburgh house, which was occupied by him and subsequently by Israel Green, as a tavern. A small store-house stood on the margin of the river, back of this building, at the place then called "Clark's Landing." There were also two buildings on "the point," which had been built by Jacob Ferris. In September, 1793, John Lewis Fouquet purchased the lot

now owned by Mr. Lansing, upon which he erected a dwelling, and soon afterwards Zephaniah Platt built the "homestead," now known as the "government house."

These buildings, with the mills and the mill-houses attached, constituted, about 1798, nearly the entire settlement within the present limits of the village. Up to this time, no streets had been projected or opened; the only thoroughfares being the common highways, leading from the surrounding country to the "proprietors' mills," as they were called. These highways were four in number. One known as the "Cumberland Head road," passing along the north bank of the river to the foot of the bay; another known as "South Street," which lead past Roberts's blacksmith shop, to the settlements in the western and south-western parts of the township; another known as "the road to Beekman's Patent," which intersected South Street near the Roberts shop, and a fourth known as the "Peru Road," which crossed the bridge and ran along the east bank of the river and the shore of the lake, to the mouth of the Salmon River and beyond. There was also a short road from Clark's tavern to the two Ferris buildings on the point. South Street, between Theodorus Platt's office and Roberts's shop, was a crooked way, passing through the pine bushes along the margin of a ravine.

Although its population at this time could not have exceeded two hundred and fifty, the village had nevertheless become a place of considerable importance. Plattsburgh was the shiretown of a large tract of country,

extending to Lake George on the south and to the banks of the St. Lawrence on the west. Courts were held here, at which the principal citizens of the county assembled, as officers, jurors, witnesses or suitors, or to confer together in relation to the political and local questions of the day. Its merchants controlled the business of a large section of country, collecting pot and pearl ashes and furs for export, and sending, yearly, long rafts of timber to the Quebec market. When the inhabitants of the ten townships upon the river St. Lawrence petitioned the legislature of 1802 for the organization of the county of St. Lawrence, they based their application upon the "extreme difficulty, troubles and expenses, jurors and witnesses must be subject to, in attending at such a distance, together with the attendance at Plattsburgh for arranging and returning the town business." A similar complaint, three years before, by the inhabitants of Crown Point, had resulted in the organization of Essex County. These changes did not affect the business or prosperity of the village, while it relieved the inhabitants of Crown Point and of ten townships from a most serious inconvenience.

In Winterbotham's *America*, vol. ii. p. 324, the author refers to the early prosperity of the village, and the intelligence of the first settlers, in the following quaint language: "They have artisans of almost every kind among them, and furnish among themselves all the materials for building, glass excepted. Polite circles may here be found, and the genteel traveller be entertained with the luxuries of a sea-port, a tune on the

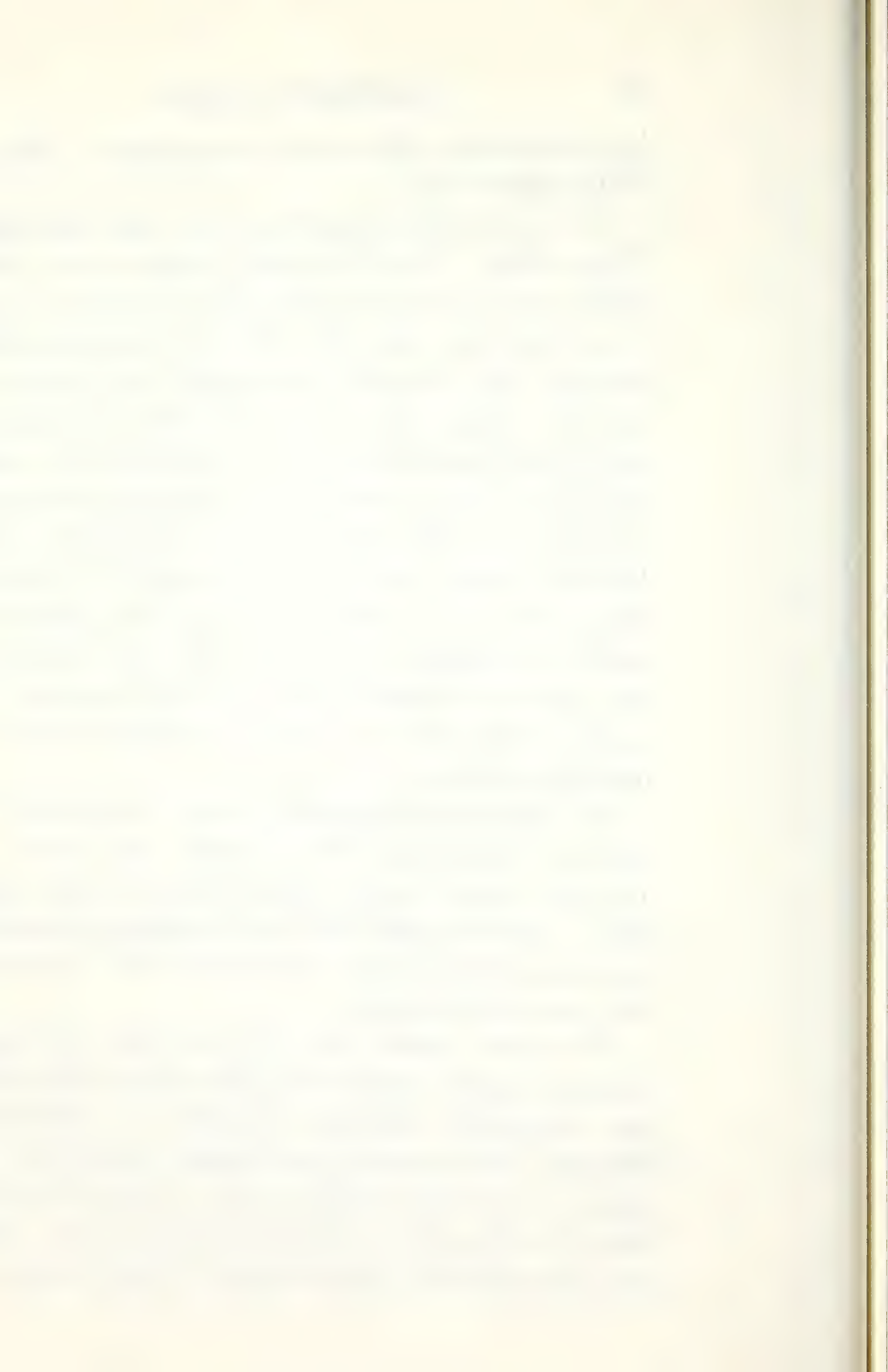


harpsicord, and a philosophical conversation." This was Plattsburgh in 1792.

It is well known that New York was originally a "Slave State." The "institution," however, never flourished in this or in any of the Northern States—a result, if we may judge from the efforts of Massachusetts to continue the slave-trade, attributable more to the influence of climate, than to the principles of the people. Gerrit Smith encountered and was repulsed by the same obstacles of climate, when, a few years ago, he attempted to settle the blacks among the hills and snows of his Franklin County lands. The influence of a northern climate led to the enactment of a law, in 1798, for the gradual emancipation of slaves. This was followed, in 1817, by an act declaring that all slaves, born after July 4, 1799, should be free; if male, at the age of 28, or, if female, at the age of 25.

In 1790, the whole number of slaves in the State was 21,324, of which seventeen resided in this county. In 1800, the number in this county had increased to fifty-eight. From this time the number gradually decreased. In 1810, as shown by the census, there were but twenty-nine slaves in the county.

The town records show that on the 16th day of August, 1794, the "negro man *Hick*, and *Jane*, his wife," were manumitted by Judge Treadwell. In September following, Hick bought his daughter *Cynthia* of the Judge for seventeen pounds (\$42.50). Judge Treadwell, about this time, also manumitted his man *York*; *Brist* was manumitted by John Addams, in April, 1803, and



Will, in November, 1804. On the 1st of January, 1806, Benjamin Mooers manumitted his "negro girl, *Ann*," and Robert Platt gave "*Gin*" her freedom, in May, 1806. On the 6th of January, 1808, the executors of Zephaniah Platt manumitted *Cato*, and in May of the same year, Peter Saily, manumitted *Dean* and her three children, *Francis*, *Abel* and *Caty*. William Bailey, also, on that day, manumitted his man *Pete*.

The town books also contain the records of the birth of sixteen children, born of slave mothers and held to service. Some of these are still living and reside in this county. One, born on the 28th of December, 1814, was named *Sir George Provost*—a compliment of which the commander of the British forces at the siege of Plattsburgh was probably never informed, and could not, therefore, fully appreciate.

I have referred to two block-houses, as standing here in 1798. One stood on the bank of the lake, on the farm of Elric L. Nichols; the other was within the present bounds of Broad Street, near the residence of the late J. D. Woodward. This latter was erected for the protection of the inhabitants at the time when the whole country apprehended a general Indian war. For several years the settlers in that locality were accustomed to pass the night within its walls. This block-house was never used for any other purpose than as a house of refuge from fancied danger. The one on the lake shore was built in 1789, and was at first intended for a jail. [See act passed March 3, 1789, which recites that the inhabitants of Clinton County are disposed to build a block-house at



Plattsburgh, to be used as a jail, &c.] It was afterwards enlarged and used as a court-house and school-house, and as a place of public worship. The court-room was not completed until 1796. At the annual town meeting in 1806, it was voted to repair the old block-house, with a brick chimney, and glaze it, and that it be used as a Poor-House.

On the 9th June, 1788, the leading men of the county met in this village to take their official oaths of office and organize our county government. Melancton L. Woolsey administered the oath of office to Judge Charles Platt, who, in turn, "swore in" Mr. Woolsey as County Clerk. Then the other county officers approached the table, signed the roll and severally swore that they would support the Constitution of the United States; that they renounced and abjured allegiance to "all and every foreign King, Prince, Potentate and State, in all the matters, ecclesiastical as well as civil," and that they would faithfully perform the duties of the office to which they had been appointed. Benjamin Mooers took the oath as Sheriff, and Abraham Beman, Stephen Taylor, and Zacheus Peaslee, as deputies; John Fontfreyde and John Stewart, as coroners; Theodorus Platt, as surrogate; Peter Saily, William McAuley, Pliny Moore, and Robert Cochran, as Associate Justices; Charles Platt, Theodorus Platt, William McAuley, Pliny Moore, Murdoch McPherson, William Beaumont, George Tremble, Robert Cochran and Charles Hay, as Justices of the Peace; and Kinner Newcomb, as deputy clerk.

The first Court of Sessions for the county of Clinton

was held in October, 1788. Judge Chas. Platt presided, assisted by Theodorus Platt, Pliny Moore, Peter Saily, William McAuley, and Robert Cochran, as Associate Justices. Benjamin Mooers was Sheriff, and Melancton L. Woolsey, Clerk. The coroner, four constables and seventeen grand jurors were in attendance. Of the latter sixteen were sworn in and one was set aside "for refusing to take the oath of allegiance." This jury, the first grand inquest which assembled in Northern New York, closed its labors by indicting two of its members for official misconduct.

They were tried at the next term of the court, when one was acquitted and the other convicted and fined. The courts were very strict to enforce prompt attendance on the part of jurors and officers. The records are filled with orders imposing fines upon dilatory constables and grand and petit jurymen. The Bench was not always overlooked. In 1825, two of the Associate Judges were indicted for "not attending at court the first day," and two others, in 1827, for the same *offense*. At this day (1876) a venerable old gentleman resides in the village who remembers that, in 1828, he was indicted for the heinous crime of "*holding stakes at a horse-race*," and wonders why, now-a-days, people can publicly sell pools at horse trots under the auspices of our agricultural societies.

The minutes of the Oyer and Terminer for 1828 inform us that one Andrew Clark was indicted "for inveigling a misdemeanor." What offense against the peace of the people and their dignity the seductive Andrew at-

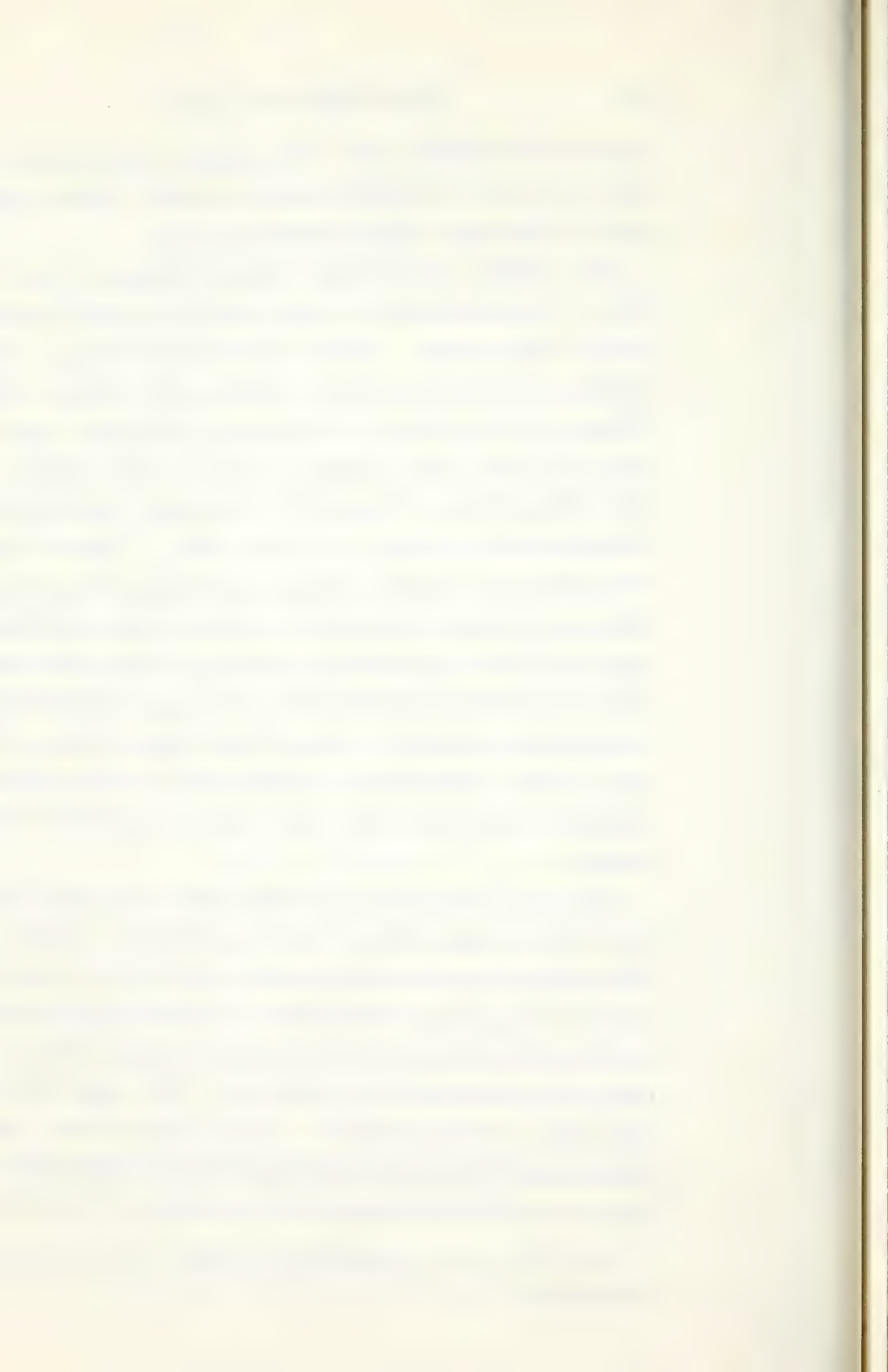


tempted to wheedle with soft words, is not stated. . It was evidently of a local character, for the Circuit Judge ordered the case to the General Sessions.

In August, 1796, Judge Egbert Benson, of the Supreme Court, presided at the first Oyer and Terminer held in the county. Terms of this Court were subsequently held here by John Lansing, Jr., James Kent, Morgan Lewis, Smith Thompson, Ambrose Spencer, Wm. N. Van Ness, Joseph C. Yates, Jonas Platt, and John Woodworth. Reuben H. Walworth held his first Circuit in this county, in June, 1823. These Courts were held at the old Block-House until 1803, when a Court-House and jail were completed on one of the twelve building lots. This new building cost \$2,751. It was burnt by order of General Macomb, during the siege of Plattsburgh, in 1814, was rebuilt in 1815-16, and again destroyed by fire in 1836. At this last fire, the outer walls remained uninjured, and form the walls of the present Court-House.¹

The first trial for felony before the Oyer and Terminer was in 1797, Judge Lansing presiding, when one David Smith was convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for ten years at hard labor. He was to be confined in the jail of Albany County until the State Prison was ready for the reception of prisoners. The court showed no mercy to counterfeiters. At the June term, 1808, Judge Smith Thompson presiding, Thomas Munsel, David Ransom, and William Barnes, were convicted of this offense

¹ The June term in 1797 and in 1798 was held "at the Block-House in Willsborough."



and each sentenced to be imprisoned for life in the State Prison, in the city of New York, and David Langly was sentenced to fourteen years' imprisonment for "attempting" to pass counterfeit money. Between the years 1825 and 1837, fifteen persons were convicted as counterfeiters and seventeen for breaking jail. Of the last, six escaped in the fall of 1828. The last was a "General Jail Delivery," through a hole cut into the court-room above the prison.

In olden times, the administration of the laws was attended with more ceremony and parade than at the present day. The Presiding Judge was escorted from his rooms to the Court-House, by the sheriff and his officers; the attending deputies and constables bearing long white wands, or white staves tipped with black. As the judge, with measured step, picked his way through the dust or mud of the unpaved streets, the surrounding crowd would wonder, as did the citizens of "Sweet Auburn," when they looked upon the well-filled head of the village master. Although many of the forms and ceremonies of those early days were not in harmony with the republican character of the people, there was much to admire in the refined and educated dignity of the bench, and the courteous tone and manner of the bar.

I cannot here omit a remarkable instance of the care manifested by the local judges for the comfort of imprisoned debtors. The records of the Common Pleas show that immediately upon the completion of the new Court-House, an order was made that "a passage from Caleb



Nichols's tavern to the new Court-House be added to the jail yard and liberties." The debtors, however, had reason to complain of one clause of the order. The passage was confined to a space three feet in width, and was to be in a strait line. This order remained in force until May, 1805, when the limits of the jail were extended to a line "one half of a mile from the Court-House, in all directions," and from that time debtors, like their more prosperous neighbors, could use both sides of the streets when returning from the tavern.¹

Another instance of the sympathy of our local judges for the distressed, occurred in 1805, in the case of *The People against Charles Langley*. The defendant had been indicted for horse-stealing and let to bail. Subsequently he had removed from the State on proceedings being instituted against him by the town authorities, on a complaint of his being the putative father of an illegitimate child. On application made by the bail to be released, the following order was entered in the minutes of the court:

"May 7, 1805. The defendant having been committed *on suspicion of stealing a horse*, was, on appearances of favorable circumstances, admitted

¹ The jail limits, as established in 1804, indicate the buildings in the vicinity of the Court-House at that time: "From the Court-House south to the house of Abram Travis, and from there to the houses occupied by Caleb Nichols, Marinus F. Durand, John Nichols, George Marsh, Theodorus Platt, Jesse Kilburn, Benjamin Wood, and the new house owned by said Kilburn (corner Broad and Margaret streets), and the brew-house (opposite the present Post Office); also, north from the Court-House, to include the house lately occupied by Chauncey Fitch and now by Kilney Grey, and thence eastwardly, to the houses occupied by David Broadwell, Abraham Beeman, Peter Saily, James Savage, and Charles Parsons, Jr." On the east they included "the forge, mills and buildings belonging to the works on the north side of the forge ditch, also, the fulling-mill and shop, and Israel Green's house and lot, and the saw-mill on the river, near the bridge, and the grist-mill and dam."

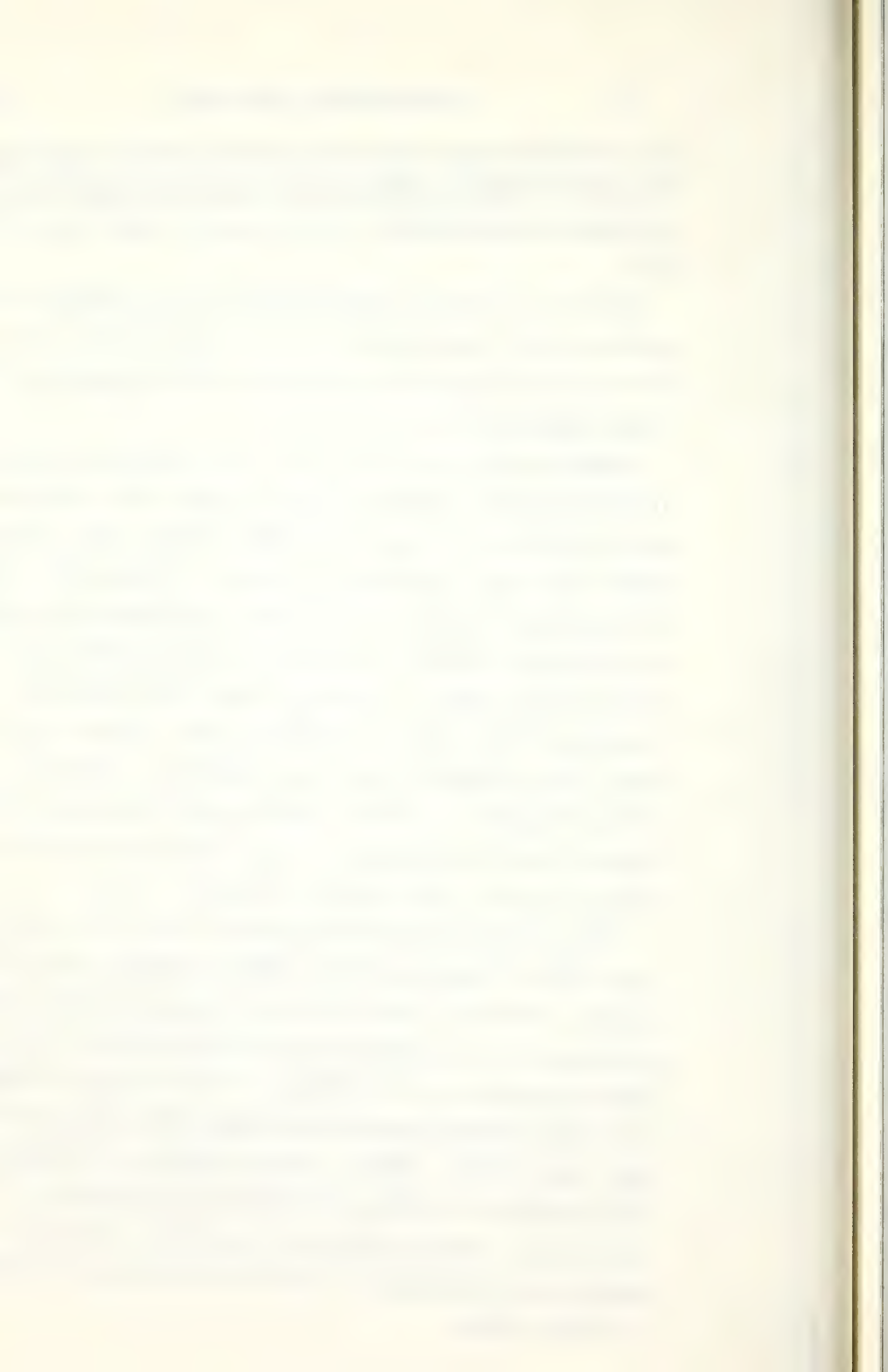


to bail, and found sureties in \$50 for his appearance at this Court; but being afterwards *threatened, in consequence of an amour*, he was forced to fly. The Court thereupon discharge the sureties from their recognizance, but order it continued against the principal. Court then rose till 2 o'clock in the afternoon."

Could a Court be more tender of the feelings of a prisoner or of the pockets of his sureties; and can we wonder that after such an exhibition of its sympathy, the Court adjourned for refreshments!

Prior to the year 1800, there were but three resident attorneys in this village: Adrial Peabody, who was admitted to the bar in 1795, and Caleb Nichols and Eleazer Miller who were admitted in 1796-7. Before this time the principal business of the Courts had been transacted by attorneys residing at a distance, who travelled the circuit with the judges. In May, 1802, Silas Hubbell and Jonathan Griffen were admitted to the Clinton County bar; John Warford in 1805; Julius C. Hubbell and Giliad Sperry in 1808; Reuben H. Walworth, John Palmer, and Asa Hascall in 1810; William Swetland and Miles Purdy in 1811, and John Lynde in 1812.

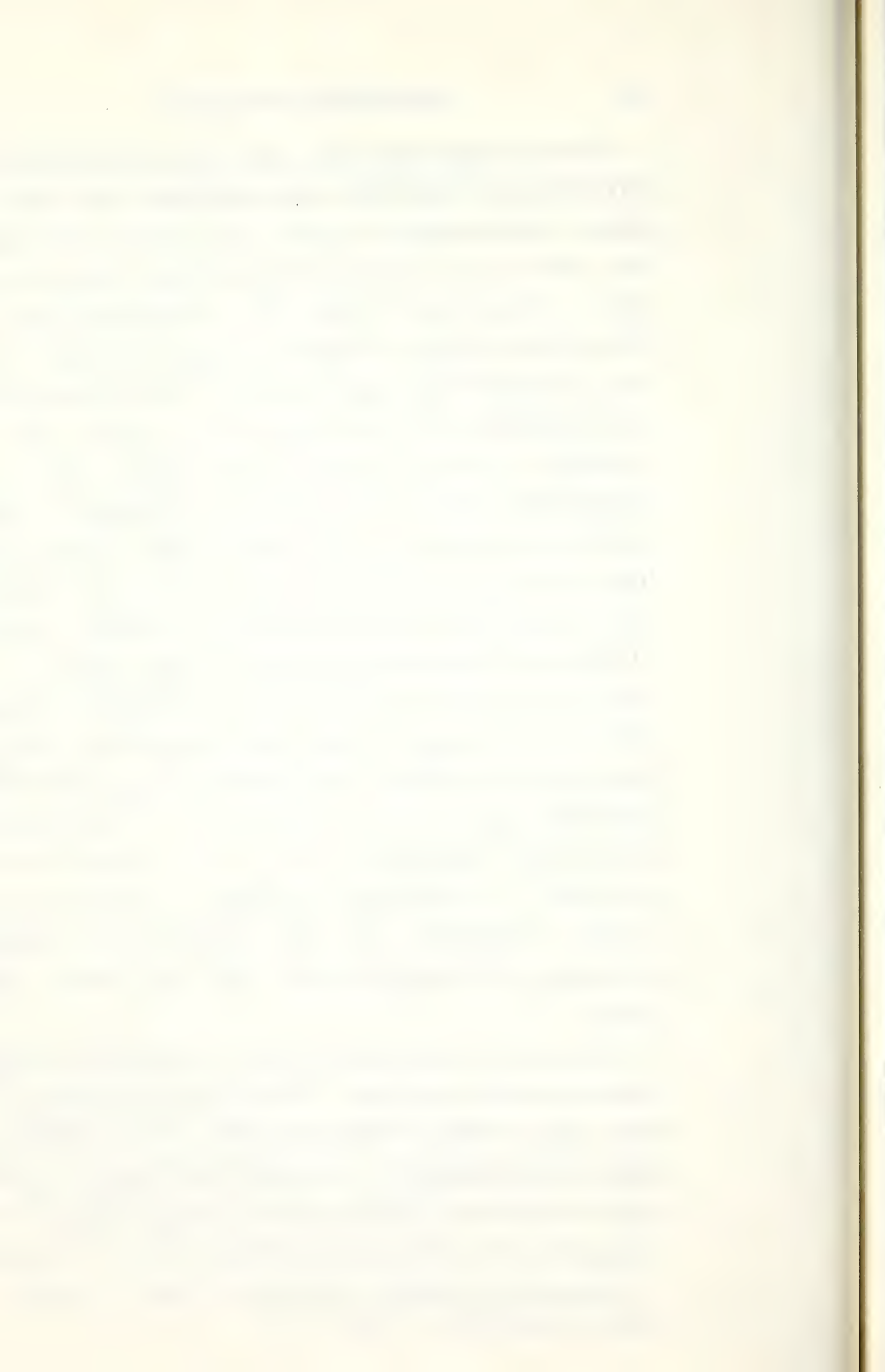
The resident physicians, prior to 1812, were Doctors John Miller, Chauncey Fitch, Oliver Davidson, and Benjamin J. Mooers. The first three named, with the other physicians of the county, organized the Clinton County Medical Society, in this village, on the 6th day of October, 1807. Doctor Mooers commenced the study of medicine with Doctor Miller, in the summer of 1806, and was examined and licensed to practice medicine in January, 1812. He had, however, practised extensively for nearly two years prior to his admission as an assistant to Doctor Miller.



During those early days, the waters of our river and bay abounded with fish of great size and most delicious flavor. In the months of June, July, August and September, salmon were caught in large numbers, with seine and spear.¹ The water at the mouth of the river was then of sufficient depth to float the largest lake craft of the day. Vessels loaded and discharged their cargoes in front of Mr. Saily's ashery, on the north side of the river, and at Clark's Landing, near the present stone mill, on the south side. About the year 1810, Nathaniel Z. Platt built a store-house on "the point," east of Fouquet's. The building was burned at the time of Col. Murray's raid, in 1813, and was soon afterwards rebuilt. Carlisle D. Tylee built a wharf on the point, at the mouth of the river, near the site of the present railroad machine shop, in 1816, and in August of that year commenced charging for goods landed there. In the winter of 1817-18, Mr. Platt applied for a grant of land under water, "for the purpose of erecting a permanent wharf for the accommodation of vessels." A store-house and dock were built the next summer. Until this time, pork, beef, &c., were unloaded by casting the barrels into the lake and towing them ashore.

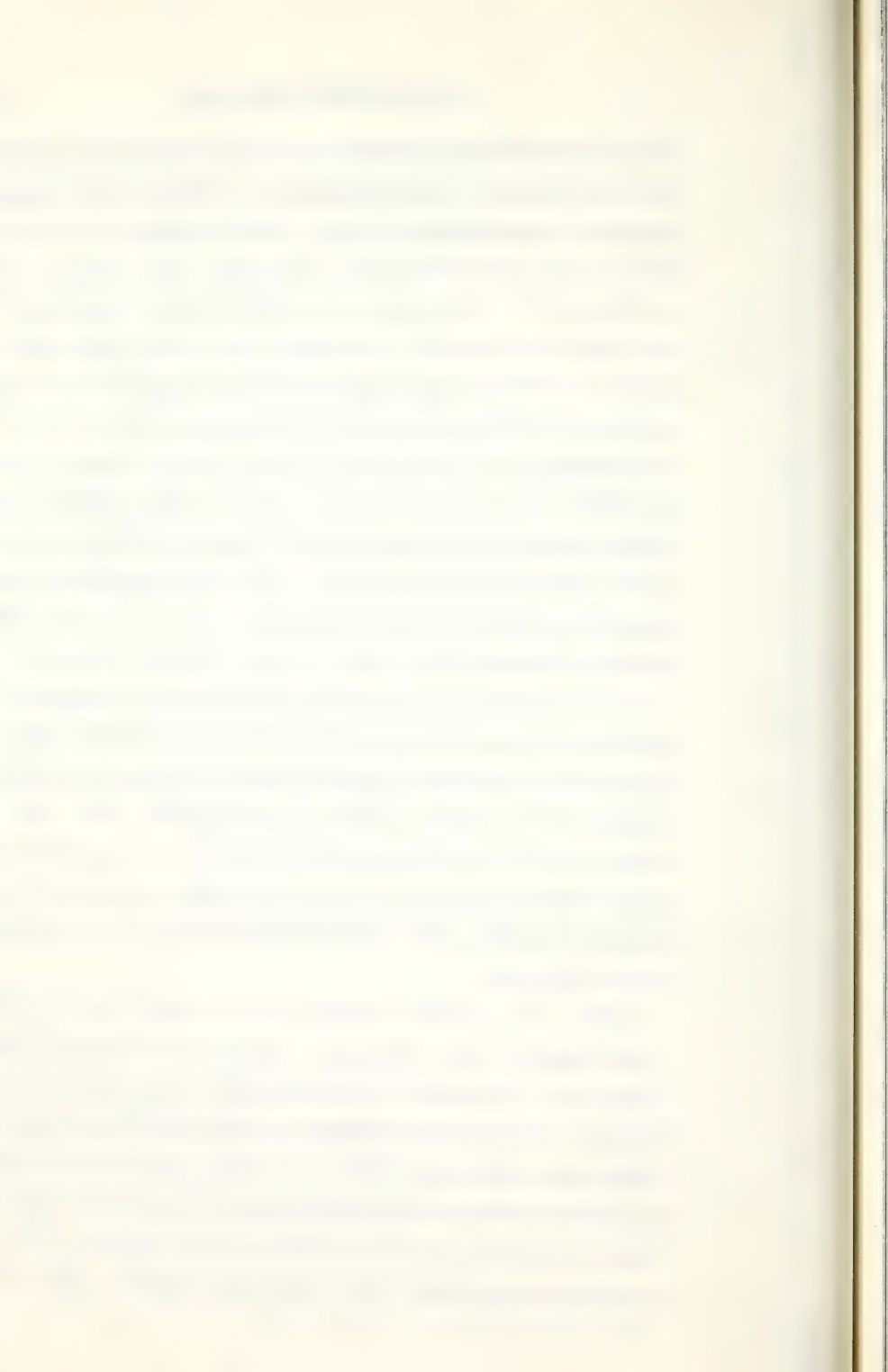
Referring to Col. Murray's raid recalls two anecdotes connected with that event. The Colonel was walking up River Street with Col. Durand and Mr. William Gilliland, who were interceding for the protection of the private property of the citizens. The day was very warm, and when nearly opposite the present livery stable of Stave & Ransom,

¹ Salmon were caught here in large numbers as late as 1825, but the price had increased to one shilling per pound.



Murray took off his hat and, with his handkerchief, wiped the perspiration from his forehead. While thus engaged, a paper dropped from his hat. Gilliland adroitly dropped his own handkerchief over the paper and picked it up unobserved. This paper, on a subsequent examination, was found to contain information as to the best mode of attack on Plattsburgh, together with a map of the encampment and military works at Burlington. It was in the handwriting of one Joseph Ackley, who, about a year previous, had moved into the village from Canada, and then resided in the small white house on Oak, near the (now) corner of Couch Street. His two daughters were attending school at the Academy. A few days after Murray's departure, Ackley was arrested, and, on an examination before the Justices of the Peace, having admitted that he was the author of the letter, was sent to Albany, but no one appearing against him, he was set at liberty, and, with his family, returned to Canada. He was no doubt a British emissary, more deserving of punishment than William Baker, a sergeant of the 103d regiment British Infantry, who was executed as a spy on the 26th of March, 1814.

With the militia called out at the time of this raid, came Capt. Sherry's company of N. Y. State Infantry. When the Captain reached the bank of the Saranac, and saw the British vessels rapidly nearing the shore, he addressed his men with a few soul-inspiring words, and, pointing to the approaching boats, ordered them to "*fight or run as occasion might require.*" It was an order timely given and promptly obeyed. The men



did run, and if report is true, did not stop until they reached the south bank of the Salmon River, near the present village of Schuyler Falls. Considering that Murray had 1400 men under his command, the "occasion" seemed to require it. An officer during the late rebellion improved upon Capt. Sherry's order by adding—"and as I am a little lame, I will start now."

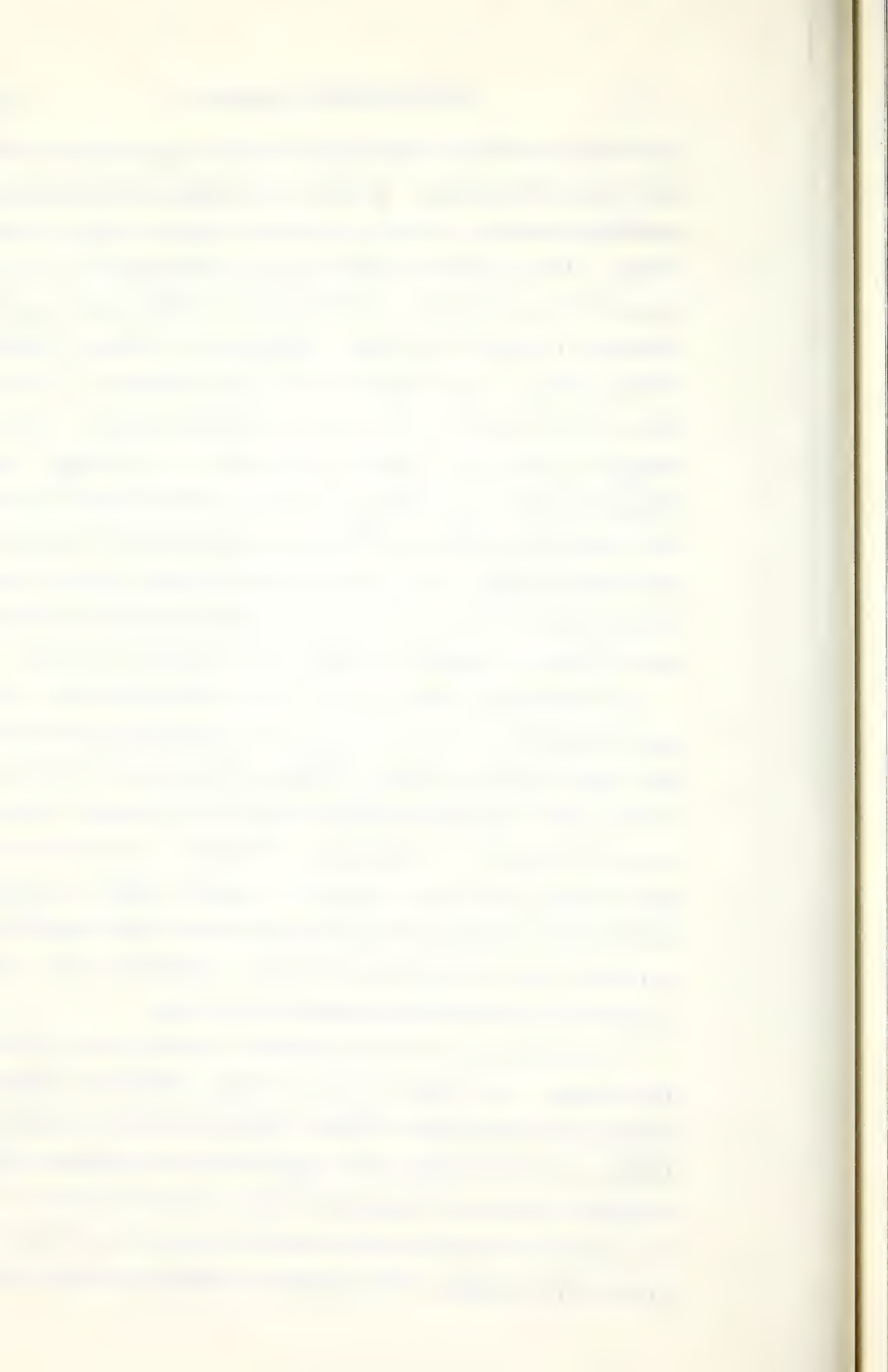
It is a fact worthy of note, that for many years boats passing through the lake did not enter our bay, but received and discharged the freight shipped to or from the village at Cumberland Head. The "Head" occupied a prominent place in the early history of the town. Stores were established there in 1786-7 by Peter Saily, John Fontfreyde, and others. It was for many years the Port of Entry for the District of Champlain, where all entries of merchandise subject to duty were required to be made. It had also a direct communication with Grand Isle by ferry. Many of the most prominent citizens of the town, including Benjamin Mooers, Theodorus Platt, Peter Saily, Marinus F. Durand, John Ransom, John Addams, Melancton L. Woolsey, and William Coe, had resided there. In August, 1815, John Nichols became the proprietor of the tavern at the old Ransom landing, and gave notice through the columns of the "*Republican*," that he would run a stage between his house and the village, "for the particular accomodation of passengers in the steamboats." Until 1817, Mr. Nichols's wharf was the only landing in this vicinity for the steamboats.

Notwithstanding the natural advantages of its location, and the intelligence, enterprise and industry of its inhab-

itants, the growth of the village was very gradual for the first twenty-five years. In 1811, the village contained 78 dwelling-houses, 4 hotels, 13 stores and 11 shops and offices. Among the merchants were Fouquet & Green, Samuel Moore & Co., McCreedy & McDowell, Lewis Ransom, Carlyle D. Tylee, Benjamin G. Wood, Elijah White, John I. and Roswell Wait, and Platt & Smith. Several of the stores were then on Broad Street. Trowbridge & Seymour, hatters, occupied a building on Margaret Street, opposite what is now Brinkerhoff Street. The manufacturing establishments, exclusive of carpenter and wheelwright shops, were a small forge, a tannery on Broad Street, two small saw-mills, a grist-mill and a fulling-mill. The only public building was the Court-House.

In October of this year, the mill company lands not appropriated to mill purposes, were subdivided into building lots by Pliny Moore, William Bailey, and William Keese, who had been appointed by the Supreme Court as commissioners in partition. What is now known as the "Park," had been laid out as a public highway, eight rods wide, as early as 1803, but it had remained enclosed with the adjoining lands until their subdivision into village lots by the commissioners at this time.

In the Spring of 1811, a public meeting was held in the village, at which Peter Saily, William Bailey, Melancton Smith, John Miller, Samuel Moore, Jonathan Griffin, and Levi Platt, were appointed a committee, with authority to raise money by voluntary contributions, for the purpose of purchasing a suitable lot and erecting an Academy building. The committee selected a lot on Oak



Street, to be bounded on the south by "a contemplated street to be laid out between the land of Melancton Smith and lot number seven," then owned by Abraham Brinckerhoff, Jr., of the city of New York. The lot was four rods in front on Oak Street, and extended back ten rods. On the 14th of May, Mr. Brinckerhoff, in consideration of \$100, conveyed the lot to the committee, in trust, "for the purpose of erecting said academy thereon." The building was immediately commenced, and was completed the same year. The building committee were, Samuel Moore, Jonathan Griffin, and Louis Ransom. It was sixty feet long, and twenty-seven feet in width, and fronted on Oak Street. A wide hall ran through the centre, dividing the lower story into two large school-rooms. A large room occupied nearly the whole of the upper story, and was reached from the lower hall by a broad stairway in the northwest part of the building. At the time of its erection the Academy was the largest and most imposing public edifice in Northern New York.

In the winter of 1813 and 14, the premises were leased to the United States government and used for barracks. The Academy was occupied by the artillery, and the old Presbyterian Church by the infantry, the parade-ground being between the two buildings.

The Academy was refitted in the spring or summer of 1814 and used for school purposes with Spencer Wall as principal teacher.

The upper room was used for many years as a place of worship and for public meetings. The Clinton County Bible Society was organized in this room, on the 5th of



March, 1816, with Pliny Moore, of Champlain, as President; Doct. John Miller, of this village, as Vice President; Azariah C. Flagg, as Treasurer, and William Swetland as Secretary. The Rev. J. Byington and Roswell Ransom, of Chazy, David Savage, of Champlain, the Rev. Nathaniel Hewitt, William Pitt Platt, James Trowbridge, and General Melancton L. Woolsey, of Plattsburgh, were appointed directors.

1753347

The first temperance society in the county was also organized in this room. A preliminary meeting was held on the 7th day of October, 1815, at which General Benjamin Mooers presided, and Silas Hubbell, Esq., of Champlain, acted as Secretary. A committee was appointed to prepare an address to the people, and the towns were requested to send delegates to an adjourned meeting, to be held at the same place, in the month of January. The address was published in the *Plattsburgh Republican* of December 16. It was a strong appeal for aid to suppress, not only intemperance, but the other vices of the day—those “bummers” following in the track of war—swearing, gambling, and an open violation of the Sabbath. The committee refer to the great consumption of ardent spirits in the county, which they estimated at 30,000 gallons annually, or nearly four gallons to each inhabitant, including women and children. The appeal was not made too soon, nor was it made in vain. The convention was held at the appointed day, when a “County Moral Society” was organized, the salutary influence of which was long felt throughout the county.

The Academy was under the supervision of the com-

mittee and their successors until the spring of 1828, when it was incorporated under the name of the "Plattsburgh Academy," and placed under the control of a Board of Trustees, with perpetual succession. The date of the act of Incorporation, is April 21, 1828. The first Board of Trustees was composed of Benjamin Mooers, John Lynde, William Swetland, Jonathan Griffin, Frederick Halsey, Frederick L. C. Saily, Heman Cady, Ephraim Buck, William F. Haile, George Marsh, John Palmer, and Henry K. Averill. But two of these gentlemen are now living—Mr. Saily, who is President of the present Board of Trustees, and Mr. Averill, who resides in one of the Western States.

The Board of trustees of the Plattsburgh Academy, has from the beginning been a strong one. The leading men have filled this office, and their names are "household words;" always serving without pay and often contributing liberally in aid of the institution.

Mr. Swetland was for nearly his whole lifetime, associated with the Board of Trustees, and for many years its presiding officer.

Judge John Palmer was also, during his life, identified with the institution.

The present Board are Frederick L. C. Saily, Doct. Truman DeForris, Cornelius Halsey, Peter S. Palmer, William W. Hartwell, Smith M. Weed, George L. Clark, Samuel F. Vilas, George M. Beckwith, John Henry Myers, and Theodorus Platt.

The internal arrangement of the rooms of the Academy was changed several times. At first, as we have

stated, there were two large school-rooms below and a large hall above. The partitions below were subsequently torn down, and the whole thrown into one room. They were again put up and the north portion partitioned off into small rooms, for those who wished to reside in the building—to be again torn down. In 1839, or about that time, an addition, doubling the capacity of the Academy, was erected by voluntary contributions of the citizens.

It is said that Bela Edgerton was the first head teacher, with Benjamin Gilman as assistant. After the war, Spencer Wall was employed as principal of the classical department, and continued to occupy that position until the fall of 1817. On the 9th of September, 1816, a school was organized on the Lancasterian plan, and placed under the charge of William Young, of Albany. In May, 1817, a "Sunday free-school" was organized, which was held every Sunday, from 8 o'clock in the morning, "until the time of public service." The upper room of the Academy was used for this purpose. This was probably the first Sunday-school in the county. About this time, Miss Clark opened a school in the Academy, "for the instruction of young ladies in the various useful and ornamental branches of education."

In November, 1817, Mr. Wall was succeeded by the Rev. Frederick Halsey, with Miss Cook and Mr. Young, as assistants. Mr. Halsey was succeeded, in December, 1818, by A. C. Fowler, who remained in charge for a year or more, when Alexander H. Prescott was appointed principal, with David Brock as assistant. At this

time, Miss Deming taught the ladies department and continued to do so until the Fall of 1824.

Mr. Prescott remained in charge of the Academy until about the year 1831, and during his administration, the school deservedly acquired a high reputation. After leaving the Academy, Mr. Prescott kept a private classical school in the village, until August, 1833, when he was appointed principal of the "Clinton County High School," at Schuyler Falls. He subsequently removed to Chazy, and was for some time principal of a school at that place.

Mr. Prescott was succeeded in the Academy by Jonathan Blanchard, Jr. The number of students for the year 1832, was one hundred. Of these, thirty-five, including Margaret Davidson, the gifted poetess, her brother, Levi P. Davidson, afterwards an officer in the U. S. Dragoons, and William Sidney Smith, an officer in the 1st Reg't U. S. Artillery, are known to have died. Of those of the classes of 1832, now living, we call to mind Samuel B. M. Beckwith and Doct. George Howe, now of Chateaugay; A. J. C. Blackman, of Mooers; Joseph K. Edgerton, of Fort Wayne, Ind.; Hon. John C. Churchill, of Oswego; Hon. D. B. McNeil, of Auburn; Samuel Platt and George Stevenson, of New York City; John White, of Cleveland, Ohio; Rev. Cyrenus Ransom, of Peru; Erastus S. Mead, of Belmont, and Dewitt C. Boynton, Rev. Charles L. Hagar, John W. Lynde, William D. Morgan, Elric L. Nichols, Peter S. Palmer, Levi Platt, and George M. Sperry, of this town.

Mr. Blanchard remained in charge of the Academy



for several years, and was succeeded in somewhat rapid succession by Mr. Boynton, Mr. Rich, Mr. Doolittle, Mr. Scott, Mr. Foster, and Rev Dr. Coit. Robert T. Co-nant was the principal in 1844 and 1845. On the 5th of January, 1846, John S. D. Taylor, better known as Dorsey Taylor, was appointed principal. His brother, Joseph W. Taylor, joined him in September, 1847, and under the joint management of the two brothers, the Academy attained a high reputation in this section.

Royal Corbin succeeded as principal in 1860, Edward P. Nichols in 1861, F. G. McDonald in 1865, E. A. Adams in 1869, W. L. R. Haven in 1867, W. M. Lillebride in 1869, and Oscar Atwood in 1871.

In May, 1867, an act was passed by the Legislature, forming a Union School District in the village, and vesting the government of the schools and of the Academy in a Board of Education, composed of ten members, five to be elected by the qualified voters of the district, and five to be chosen by the trustees of the Academy, from their own number. Since then, the Academy building has been under the control of the Board of Education. The old building was destroyed by fire on Friday evening, November 10, 1871. Two lots were purchased adjoining the old Academy building on the north, and the foundation of a new building commenced in the fall of the year 1873. This building was completed at a cost of \$35,000, and opened for use September 1, 1875.

The year 1811 was an important one in the history of the village. The subdivision of the mill property and the opening of Brinkerhoff Street, unbarred the lands in



the central portion of the village, concentrated the mercantile establishments, which were, before this time, widely scattered throughout the place, and generally infused a new activity and enterprise among the citizens. The building of the Academy was commenced at this time; preparations were also now made for the erection of a suitable place for public worship, and for the establishment of a public newspaper.

In the spring of this year, a number of gentlemen met by appointment at the house of Peter Saily, to consider the subject of establishing a political paper. Besides Mr. Saily, there were present at this meeting Col. Melancton Smith, Judge Kinmer Newcomb, Judge Charles Platt, Isaac C. Platt, Caleb Nichols, Doct. John Miller, Thomas Treadwell, and General Benjamin Mooers, of Plattsburgh; Judge Carver, of Chazy, and Judge Samuel Hicks, of Champlain. A stock company was organized, and a press and type having been purchased, the first number of the *Plattsburgh Republican* was issued. The paper was at first under the editorial supervision of Col. Smith. In 1813, Azariah C. Flagg became the editor, and retained that position until about the year 1825.¹

I have before me broken files of the *Republican* from 1815 to 1820. From these I learn that in the winter of 1815-16, a stage line was established between this village and the city of Montreal, making two trips each week. In summer, the communication was by the steam-

¹ A small sheet had been started here in 1807, called the *American Monitor*, which was discontinued after a feeble existence of less than two years.



boat Vermont, a small vessel one hundred and twenty feet in length, with an engine of twenty horse-power, commanded by Capt. John Winans. In 1815, this boat ran between Burlington and St. John's, leaving Burlington every Monday and Friday morning, and St. John's Wednesdays and Saturdays, stopping at Cumberland Head to land and take on Plattsburgh passengers and freight.

In August of this year, a new boat, called the Phoenix, Capt. J. Sherman, commenced running between Whitehall and St. John's. This was a larger boat than the Vermont, and was advertised as of "uncommon speed," and as being "fitted up in a style not inferior to those on the North River." The boat made one round trip each week. What was considered great speed in those days, may be inferred from the fact, that when the Chancellor Livingston was put on the North River, at a cost of \$110,000, it was the boast of the owners and the wonder of the public, that she could run from New York to Albany in *twenty* hours!

I also find that in January, 1823, Jonathan Thompson, "the mail carrier," commenced running a stage once a week between Plattsburgh and Ogdensburgh, leaving this village every Tuesday morning, and arriving at Ogdensburgh on Thursday evening. This line connected with the steamboats on Lake Champlain and Lake Ontario, and was advertised as "the best route between the Eastern States and the country bordering on the great lakes and the St. Lawrence." Mr. Thompson announces that he will carry his passengers in "covered spring car-



riages, strong and commodious," and he promises them "excellent public houses on the route," and "very good roads for a new country." In December, 1824, the stages made two trips each week. This winter we had a tri-weekly communication with Albany and Montreal. A daily mail route was first established between Ogdensburg and Plattsburgh in July, 1837.

The road over which Mr. Thompson ran his "covered spring carriages," was now in very good condition, though it had once been the terror of all those whose business led them through Chateaugay woods. In 1811, a law had been passed, requiring the managers of the lottery for the purchase of the botanic garden, to raise \$5,000, to be expended for the improvement of the road between Plattsburgh and the town of Chateaugay, under the direction of Peter Saily, Jonathan Griffin, and James Ormsbee, and the year following another act had been passed, authorizing the State Treasurer to advance the money, in anticipation of the drawing of the lottery. The small amount thus furnished was found inadequate for the construction of a passable road. Yet nothing further was done until 1817, when the road was improved by the United States troops then stationed at Plattsburgh. This work was commenced in August of that year, at a point three miles west from the village (Thorn's corners), by a detachment of the Sixth Regiment, under command of Lieut.-Col. Snelling, and was continued, from year to year, to the great disgust of the officers and men, until twenty-four miles of the distance had been completed. In March, 1822, the sum of \$7000



was appropriated by the legislature, to be expended "in extending and completing" the road to Chateaugay, a distance of fourteen miles. One-half of this sum was to be raised by the counties of Clinton and Franklin, and the residue was to be furnished by the State. By an act passed February 14, 1823, the Judges of the Clinton Common Pleas were authorized to erect a toll-gate "at or near the dwelling-house of Benjamin H. Mooers, eighteen miles west of Plattsburgh village." From that time, the road was improved and kept in good repair by the tolls. It was an avenue of travel of great importance and benefit to this village, as well as to the inhabitants of Franklin County, and until the completion of the Ogdensburgh railroad, was the principal route of communication between Lake Champlain and the towns in Franklin County, and the eastern portion of St. Lawrence County.

The first execution for murder in this county, was that of James Dougherty, a soldier; who was tried and convicted for the murder of a young man named John Wait, a resident of Salmon River, while the latter was returning from Pike's Cantonment, where he had been to deliver a load of wood. He was tried at the June Oyer and Terminer, 1813, Judge James Kent presiding, and was sentenced to be hung on Friday, the 6th of August of the same year, and his body delivered to the President of the Clinton County Medical Society, "for the use of said Society." He was hung near the lake shore on the "Boynton road." On the 26th March, 1814, William Baker, a sergeant in the British Army

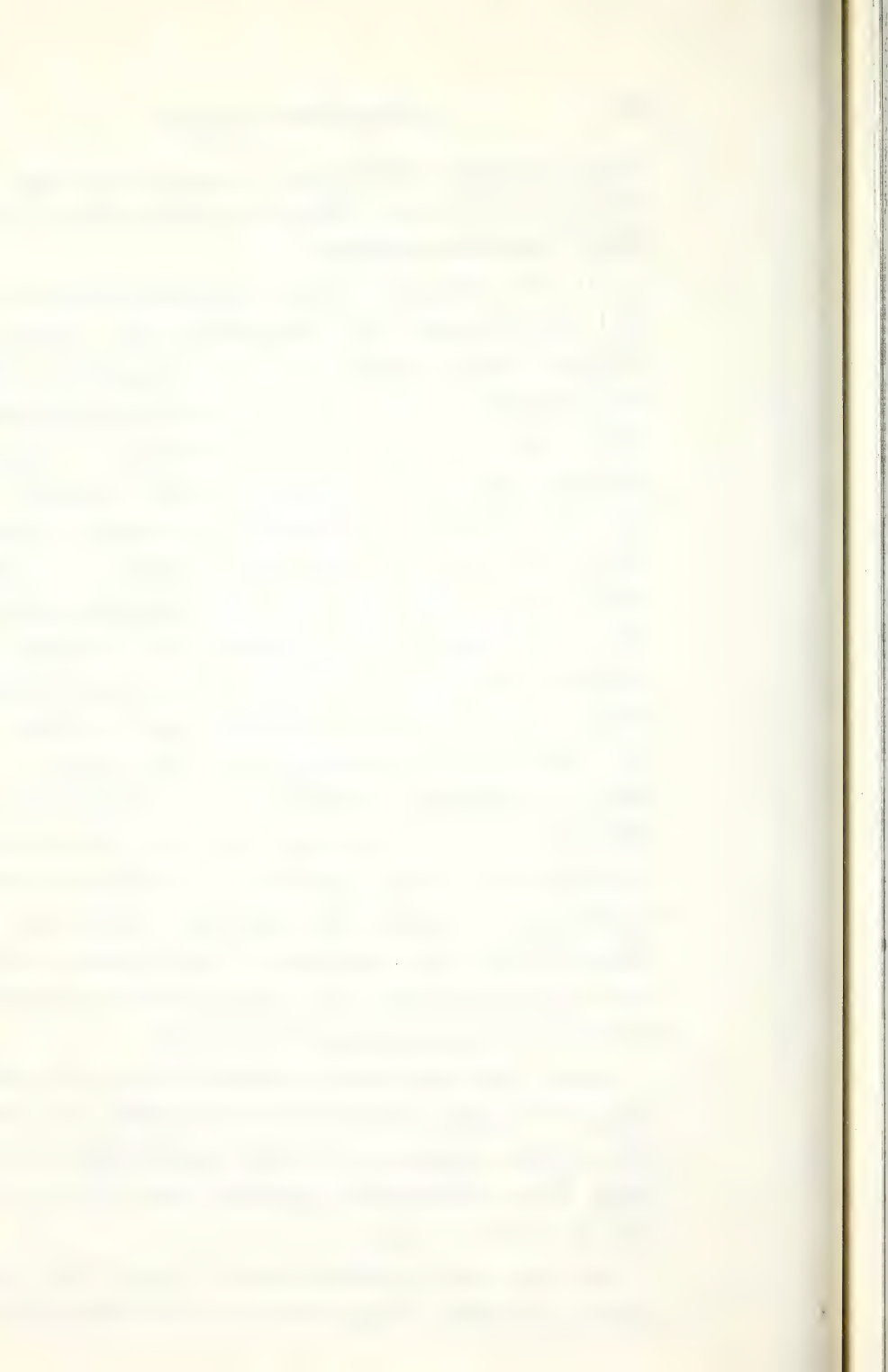


(103d regiment of Infantry), was executed as a spy. He was hung on the sand ridge between Court and Brinkerhoff Streets in the village.

In July, 1813, one Francis de Alert and his father had been arrested and committed to the county jail, charged with the murder of a man named Peter Miller, at Champlain. They were both released by the British at the time of the raid under Col. Murray, in August of that year, and fled to Canada. Francis married soon after, and remained in Canada until in the winter of 1816, when, for some unexplained purpose, he crossed the lines into Champlain. He was immediately arrested and recommitted to jail, and having been indicted, was tried and convicted, at a Court of Oyer and Terminer, Judge Ambrose Spencer presiding, held in June, and was sentenced to be hanged on the 26th of July. His body was delivered to Doctors Beaumont and Center for dissection. On the morning of that day, the people of the surrounding country, and from Grand Isle, assembled in numbers to witness the execution. Great was the disappointment when, about nine o'clock in the morning, it was announced that Alert had cheated the gallows of its victim, by hanging himself in his cell.

James Pike was tried for murder on the 30th June, 1815, before Judge Jonas Platt, and acquitted. In June, 1821, George Hyde was tried for manslaughter before Judge John Woodworth, convicted and sentenced to State Prison for 14 years.

On the 18th of March, 1825, Peggy Facto was publicly executed. Peggy Facto was convicted for the



murder of her infant child. It was an unnatural and aggravated crime. The infant was first strangled by a string tied around its neck, and the body then thrown into the fire, where it was partially consumed. The mutilated remains were afterwards concealed under a pile of rubbish in the woods, where they were found and dragged out by dogs, and the murder thus discovered. She was tried at the January Oyer and Terminer, 1825, and sentenced by Judge Reuben H. Walworth, on Saturday, the 23d—by the sentence of the Court, her dead body was to be delivered to the President and members of the Medical Society for dissection. She was executed on the arsenal lot on Broad Street.

Francis Labare was indicted as accessory, and was tried and acquitted at the same term of the Court. On the 28th June, 1826, Elvira Steel was indicted for the murder of a Mr. Carter, keeper of the Plattsburgh Poor-House. She was tried at the same term before Judge Enos T. Troop and was acquitted, on the ground of insanity. In June, 1827, William H. Houghton, of Chazy, was indicted for murder, and Harriet Dominy as accessory. On the trial Houghton was acquitted. The trial continued several days. Houghton was defended by Judge Lynde and Mr. Swetland, of this village, Ezra C. Gross, of Essex County, and Samuel Stevens, then of Washington County. After his acquittal Harriet Dominy was discharged from custody.

Alexander Larabee was hung on the arsenal lot on Broad Street, on the 23d of March, 1834, for the murder of Leander Shaw, his son-in-law. He had been tried

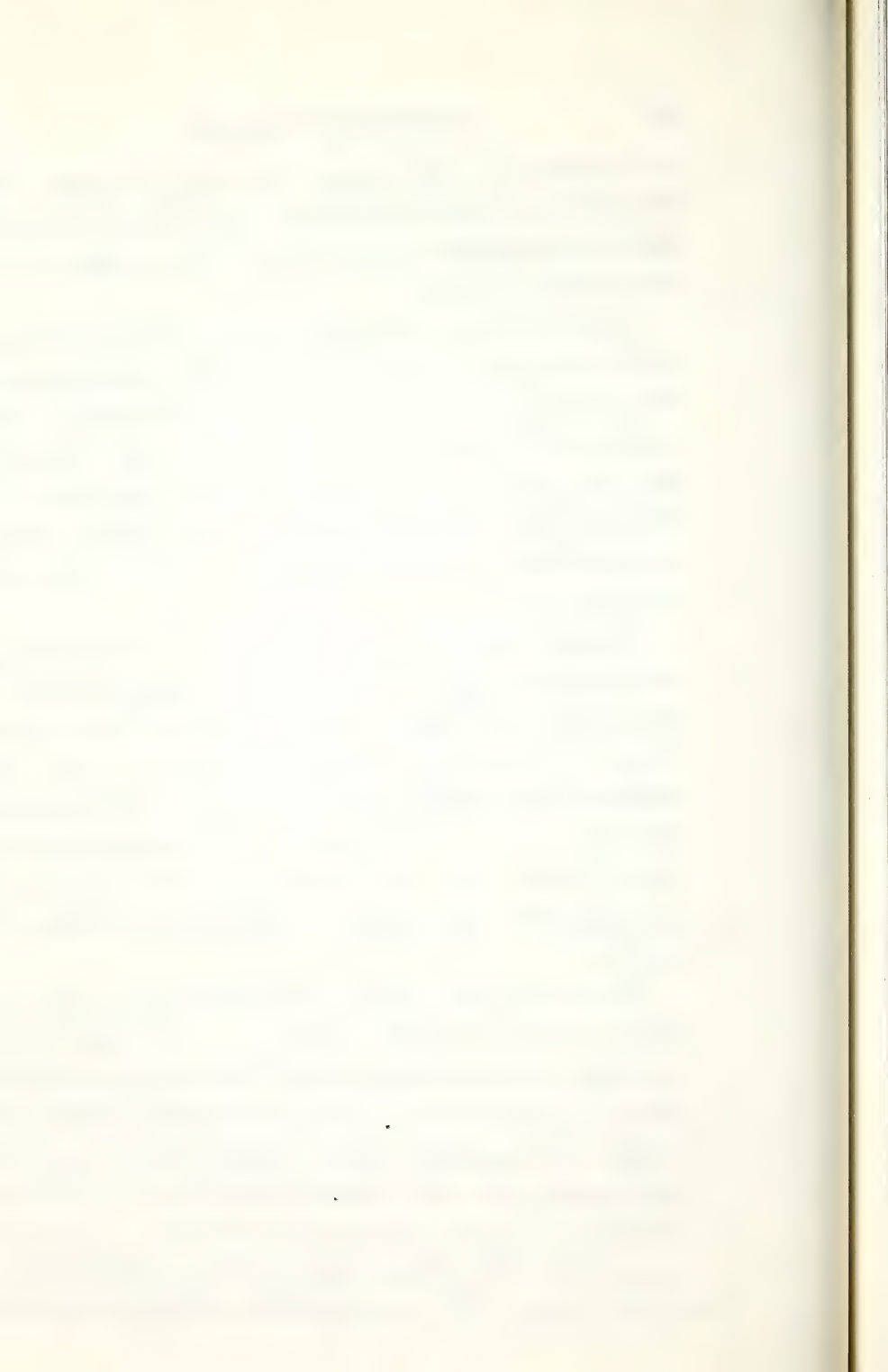


and sentenced at the January Oyer and Terminer. To the last he asserted his innocence and caused a declaration to that effect to be read from the scaffold by the Rev. Father Rafferty.

Joseph Levert was tried and convicted at the September Oyer and Terminer, 1847, for the murder of his wife, and was sentenced to be hung on the 16th of November, of the same year. The scaffold was erected in the jail yard. Levert made a written confession, in which he gave a detailed account of the murder, which was published in the village papers. It was a cool, premeditated act.

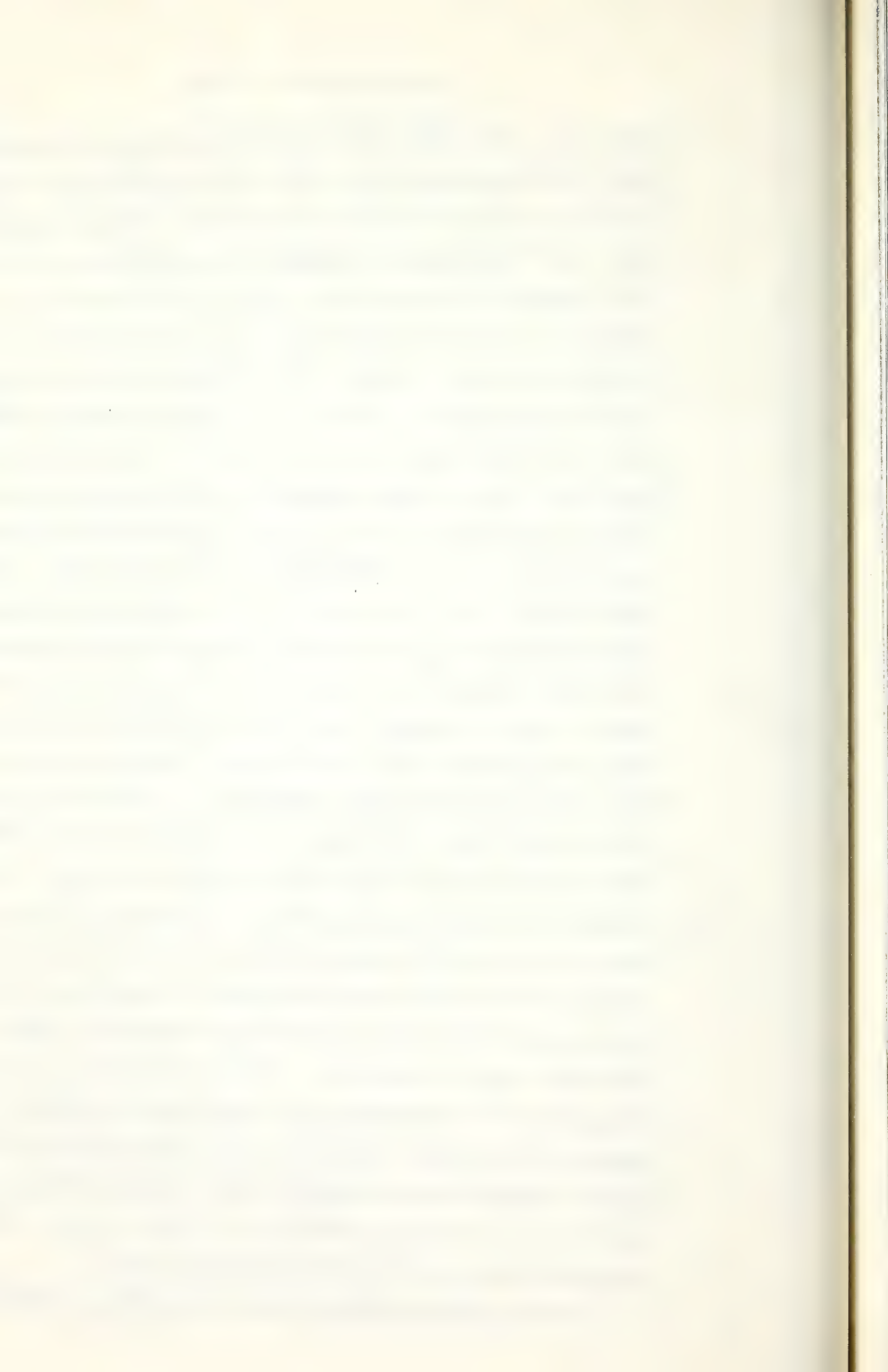
Joseph Centerville was indicted at the October Oyer and Terminer, 1854, for the murder, at Schuyler Falls, of his sister-in-law, Margaret Rock, a girl about eleven years of age. He was tried before Judge James, at the next February Oyer and Terminer, and having been convicted, was sentenced to be executed on Wednesday, the 28th day of March, 1855. He was hung in the Court-House yard, upon the same gallows used at the execution of Levert.

There was great distress throughout the county of Clinton during the winter of 1816-17. Mr. Peter Saily, in a letter to the Secretary of the Treasury, under date of January 24, 1817, says: "A large portion of the inhabitants are much distressed for want of bread, whilst the poorer and laboring class are absolutely destitute of the means of obtaining it, at the high price it sells for." The columns of the "*Republican*" bear evidence to the severity of the season. The summer was unusually cold and



backward. On Thursday, the 6th day of June, the atmosphere at Plattsburgh was filled with particles of snow, and it was uncomfortable out of doors without a great-coat. In Vermont the weather was still more severe. On Thursday "the snow fell rapidly, but melted as it fell. Much snow fell on Friday night, and on Saturday in the forenoon in many places. In Williston it was twenty, and in Cabot eighteen inches deep. The ground at Montpelier was generally covered during the whole of yesterday (June 8th), and the mountains, as far as can be seen, are yet completely white. [Letter published in *Republican* of July 13, dated Waterbury, Vt., June 9th.] This cold weather was succeeded by an uncommon drought. No rain fell during the months of August and September. The earth became parched, and, in clay soils, opened in large cracks; swamps were dried up, wells and brooks failed to furnish water, and the rivers became so low that the mills could not grind sufficient to answer the wants of the inhabitants. Wheat was brought to the mills of Messrs. Smith and Platt, in this village, to be ground, by farmers residing as far north as Lacadie, in Canada. Fires also raged throughout the county, burning up large quantities of timber and frequently destroying pastures and meadow lands. No rain of any consequence fell until after the 10th of October. "The atmosphere," says the *Republican* of October 5th, "has been so filled with smoke, arising from the fires in every direction, that even in this village, for three or four days the first of the present week, it would be difficult in the morning to distinguish a man at the distance of fifty rods."

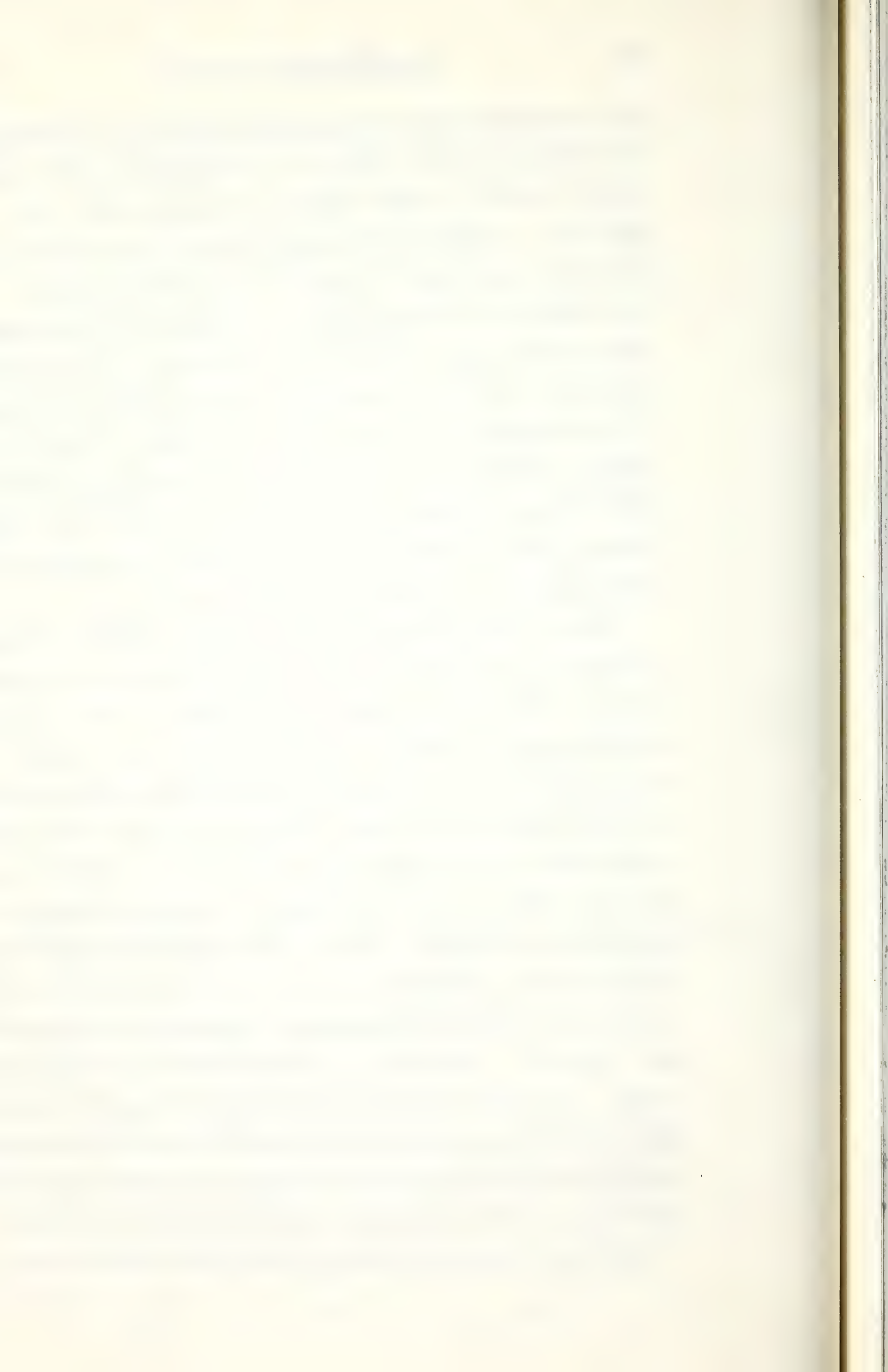
On the 3d day of March, 1815, an act was passed by



the Legislature, incorporating the village of Plattsburgh. The bounds of the village, as prescribed by this act, extended north to the highway, running east and west past the "residence of Samuel Lowell" (now Capt. John Boynton's), and west to the east line of the school lot. The first election of village officers was held on the 2d day of May of that year, at the hotel at the foot of River Street, known as "The Ark," and then kept by David Douglass. At this election, William Bailey, Jonathan Griffin, John Palmer, Reuben H. Walworth, Levi Platt, Samuel Moore, and Eleazer Miller, were chosen trustees, and Giliad Sperry, clerk. [The bounds of the village were materially reduced by an act passed in April, 1831.]

One of the first acts of our "village fathers," was to provide for the building of a market-house and public scales. The market-house was erected on the east side of the square or "Park," in front of the Court-House. It was used for several years; the stalls, four in number, being annually leased at auction. The scales stood about four rods south of the market, and here all hay sold within one half of a mile of the Court-House, was, by ordinance, required to be weighed. These scales were an old-fashioned, clumsy affair, provided with beam and chains, pullies and cog-wheels, used for the purpose of raising the wagons off the ground. Between the market-house and the hay scales, a turnpike road was constructed along the south side of the square, while all north of this road was a quagmire, in which innumerable bull-frogs, of enormous growth, held nightly concerts for the amusement of our forefathers.

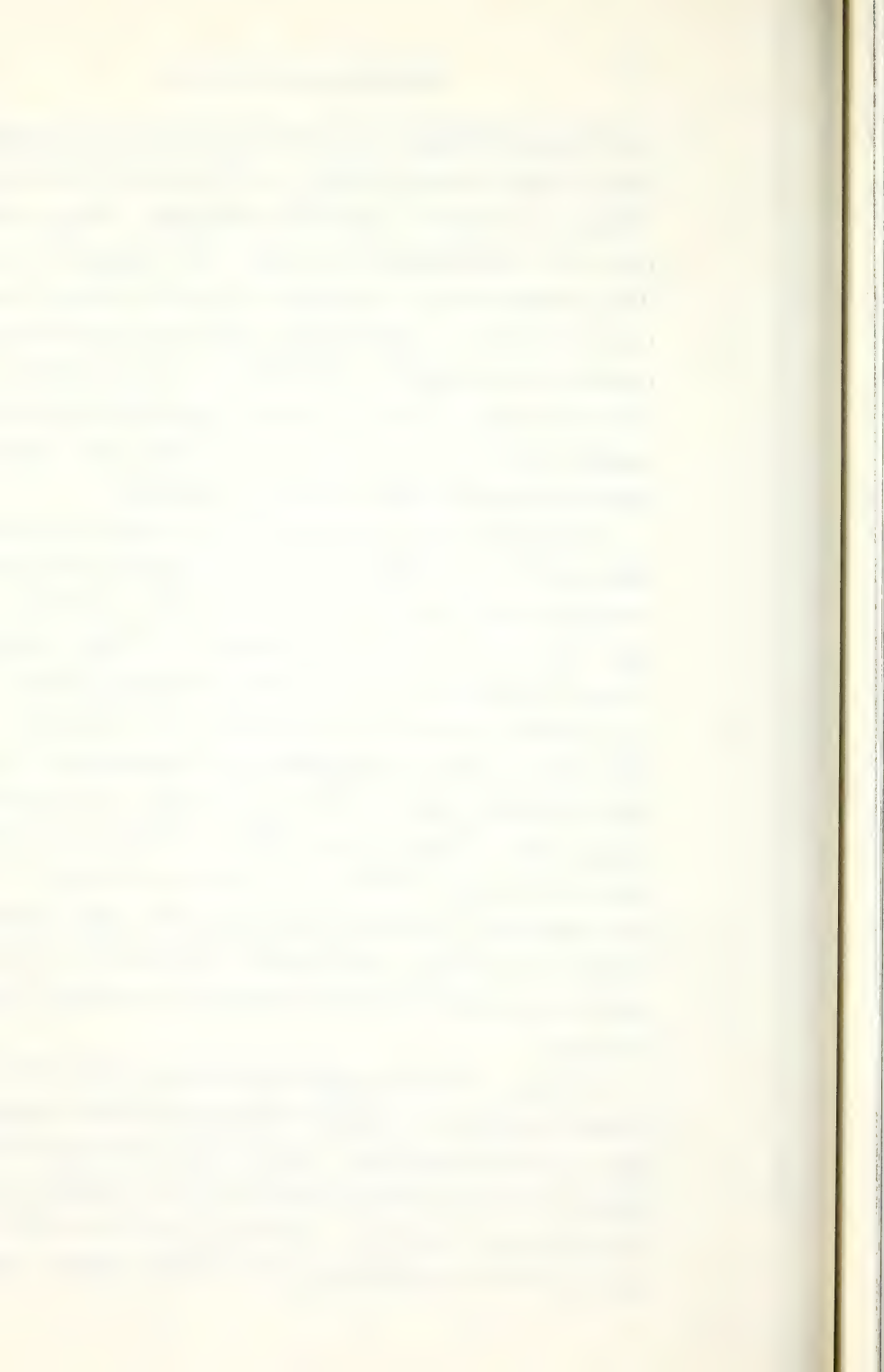
Nothing unusual occurred to mark the deliberations or



the Board of Village Trustees, until the summer of 1817, when it was announced that the President of the United States, Mr. Monroe, proposed visiting the village, while on a tour of inspection through the Northern States. This announcement excited the corporation officers in an unusual degree. A meeting of the trustees was called, a committee of reception appointed, an orator chosen, and a sum of money, raised by tax for the purchase of a fire-engine, and then in the hands of the Treasurer, appropriated to defray the expenses of the reception.

On Sunday, the 27th day of July, at noon, the President arrived by steamboat, and was escorted to the hotel kept by Israel Green, by a company of U. S. Infantry, under command of Captain Newman S. Clark, Captain Sperry's company of horse and the Plattsburgh Rifles. At the hotel he was received by Reuben H. Walworth, who delivered an address in behalf of the corporation, to which the President replied. As he passed into the house the young ladies of Miss Cook's and Miss Forrence's schools strewed his path with flowers. In the evening the President attended a party at the house of Captain Sidney Smith, of the Navy; on Sunday he attended services at the Presbyterian Church, and passed the evening at Judge DeLords.

All this is related in glowing language in the columns of the *Republican*. But the crowning act of the reception was reserved for Monday. At ten o'clock in the forenoon, the President started for Sackett's Harbor, under escort of Capt. Sperry's company. At two o'clock he reached a point on the road, thirteen miles distant, where a lower

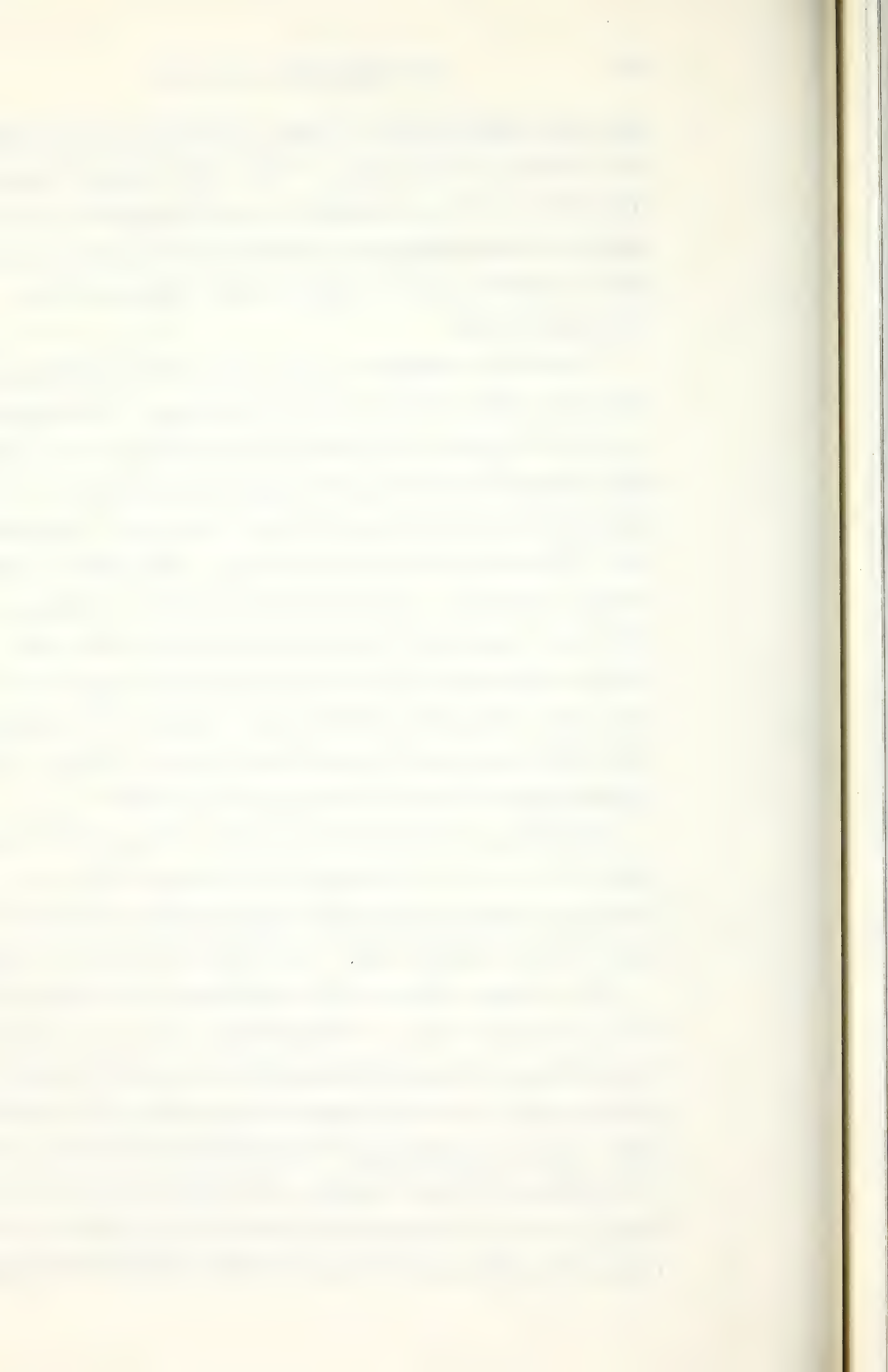


had been erected, and a repast provided for his party by the citizens of the village. "The site chosen," says the *Republican*, "was romantic and well adapted to the occasion, on the margin of a brook which crossed the road, gently breaking, by its murmurs, the stillness of the surrounding forest."

"In such a moment," adds the writer, becoming eloquent over the recollections of the scene, "so congenial to convivial gayety, form and ceremony have no place; age looses its caution, philosophy itself is taken off its guard, and the flow of soul alone triumphs." Evidently the "Clinton County Moral Society" had taken a recess for the occasion. After partaking of this collation, the President resumed his journey towards the west, the citizens returned to their homes, and the trustees watched over the village for another year without a fire-engine. The President and his escort had eaten it up, in that "shaded bower," by the "murmuring brook."

Speaking of his reception in this village, Mr. Waldo says: "In no place through his extensive tour was the President received with more undissembled tokens of respect than at Plattsburgh." [President's Tour, p. 250.]

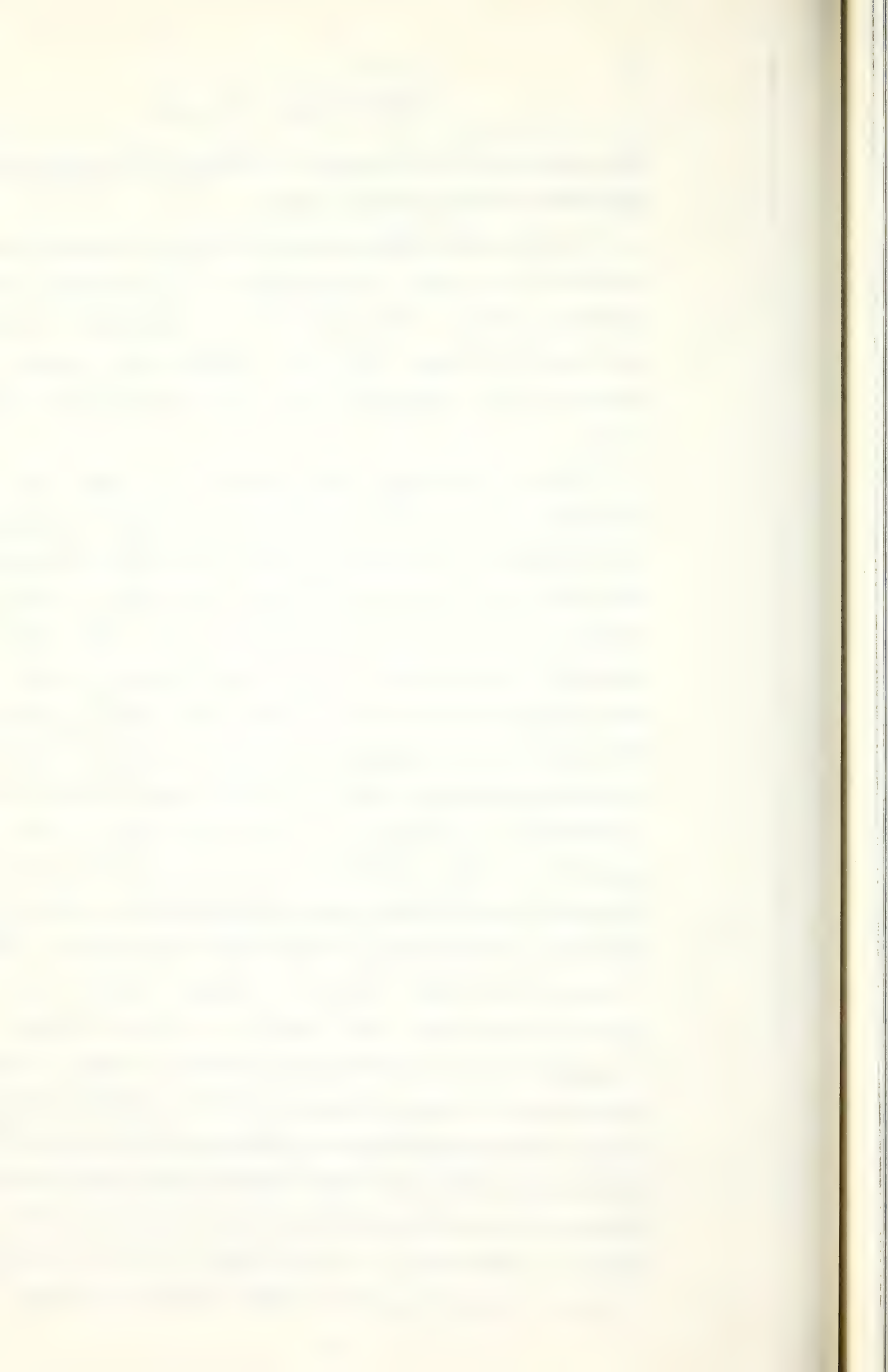
Mr. Waldo refers to the collation in the woods in the following words: "Prosecuting his route towards Ogdensburgh through the majestic forests, the President's attention was suddenly arrested by an elegant collation, fitted up in a superior style by the officers of the army and the citizens of the County. He partook of it with a heart beating in unison with those of his patriotic countrymen by whom he was surrounded; and acknowledged



this unexpected and romantic civility with unaffected and dignified complacency [p 251].

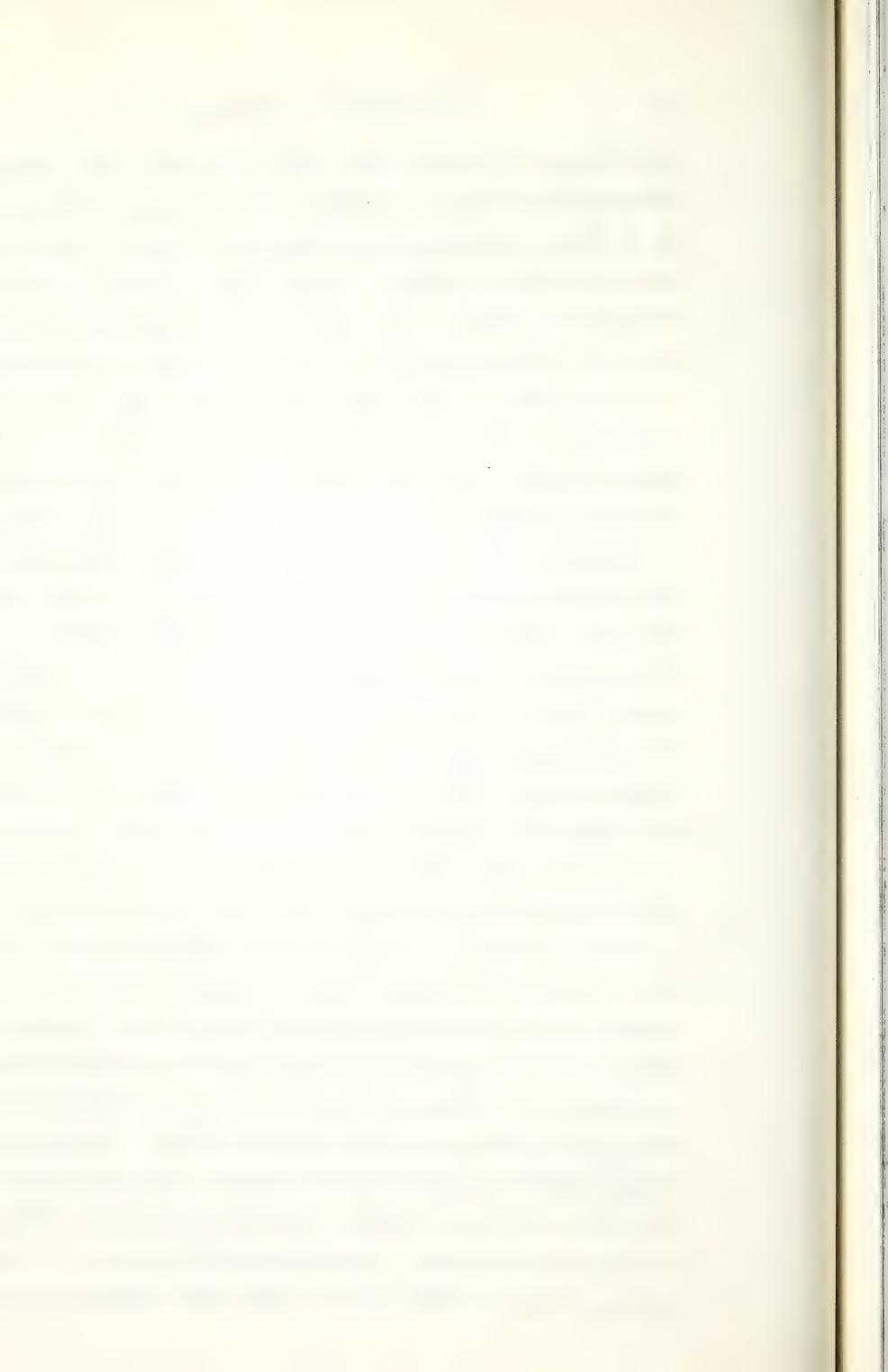
In 1823, the village contained three hundred houses, a church, a bank, a court-house, an academy, three printing-offices, a flouring-mill, two saw-mills, a fulling-mill and clothing works, an oil-mill, two carding machines, three tanneries, fifteen retail stores, and a distillery.

Of the buildings here referred to, none are now standing except the court-house and the flouring-mill. The distillery belonged to James Kennedy, and stood on the south shore of the river, near the outlet of the grist-mill race. Kennedy advertises to give "five quarts of whiskey for a bushel of rye or merchantable corn," or, if his customers desired, he "would take wood in payment." Platt & Belcher had three carding machines in the brick building at the west end of the dam, and Platt & Hyde conducted the business of cloth dressing in the same building. The tanneries were conducted by Stephen Averill, Daniel Noble, and Lansing Parsons. Mr. Noble discontinued business in the fall of this year. David Kennon advertises "soal and upper leather" for sale. James Trowbridge and Sheldon Lockwood were each engaged in the manufacture and sale of hats. Samuel Emery and Charles Haynes carried on the business of chair making, painting and gilding, and Joseph I. Green had a shop where he manufactured saddles and harnesses. Among the merchants were Bailey & Brinkerhoff, Matthew M. Standish, L. & H. Platt, C. D. & J. Backus, Cady & Anderson, James Bailey, Anselm Parsons, Wm.



H. Morgan, J. G. Freleigh, John Walworth, N. C. Platt, Samuel Hull, Samuel Lowell, and Alexander McCotter. R. C. Hoar sold boots and shoes, and "Dave" Langdon was the village cartman. Judge John Lynde was Post-Master, and had an easy time of it, if we might judge from the following notice in the *Plattsburgh Republican* of April 26th: "We have received no mail from the south for several days. We understand that for the future *it will come but once a week.*" And when it did come the postage was twenty-five cents on a single letter.

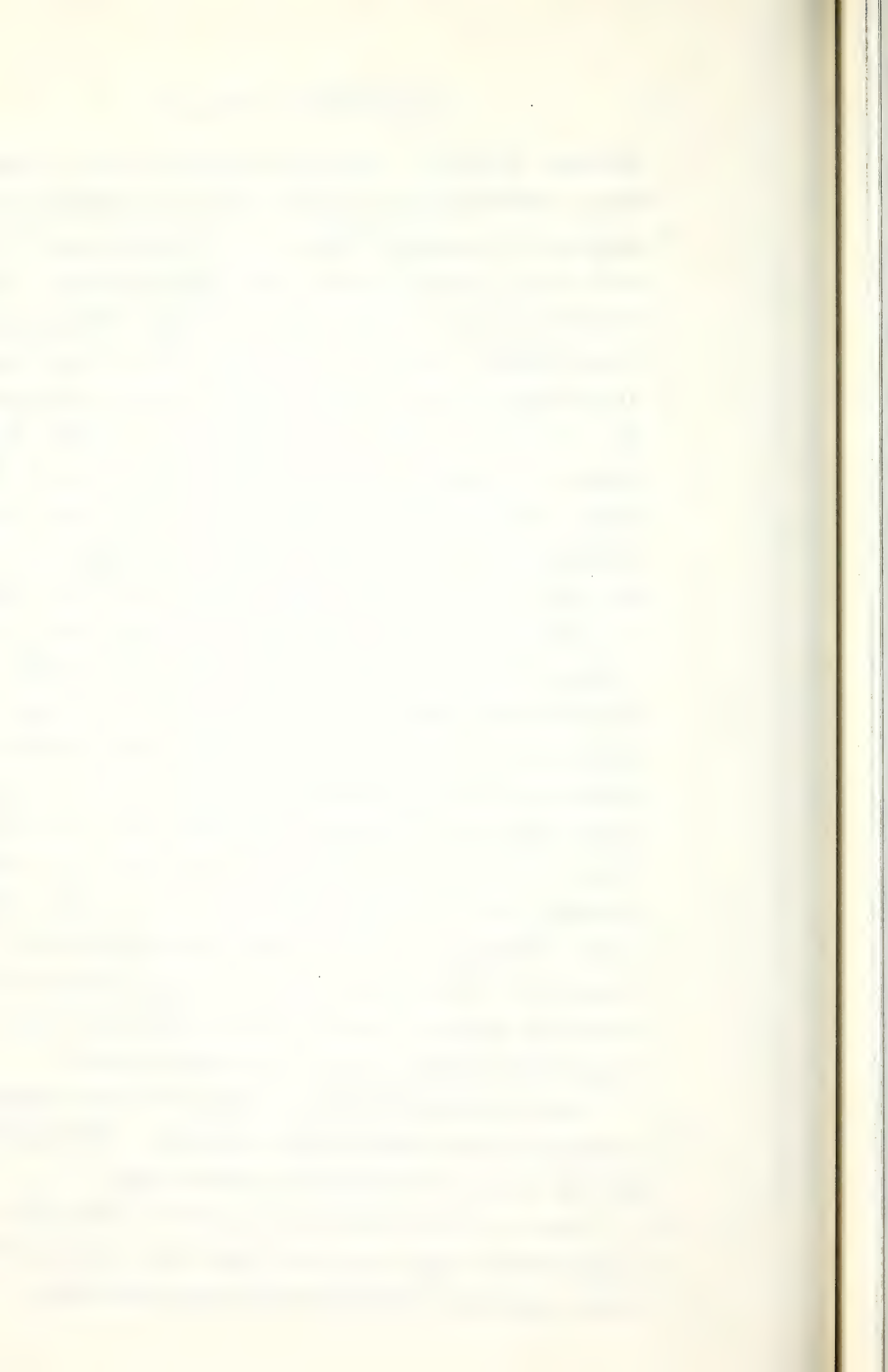
Reference has already been made to the manufacturing establishments in the village in 1835. At that time Ephraim Buck was President of the village, William F. Haile, Heman Cady, Samuel Emery and F. L. C. Saily were Trustees, and George M. Beckwith was Clerk. The principal merchants were Andrew Moore, Saily & Hicks, Samuel Hinman and D. L. Fouquet, who occupied the stone row at the head of Bridge Street. Heman and Cyrus Cady, who occupied the south store in the brick block between Bridge Street and the public square; Lawrence Myers, in the old wooden building on the corner of River and Bridge Streets; James Bailey and Cornelius Halsey, on the north side of Bridge Street, between River and Margaret Streets; Moss Kent Platt, on the corner of Bridge and Margaret Street; Thomas Goldsmith on the corner of Oak and Broad Street; William H. Morgan, Hugh McMurry, and Samuel Lowell, on the east side of the river; Ephraim Buck, on Margaret, and Paul Marshall on River Street. Smaller establishments were also kept by Joseph Durkee, John Archy, Asa Saunders, and



Michael Kearney. Ransom Richardson had a cabinet store, with machinery, in the old brick building at the west end of the dam. William G. Brown, Leonard Crane, and D. L. Fouquet were also cabinetmakers. There were three hotels at this time, the Village Hotel, kept by John Nichols, where the Witherell House now stands; the Phoenix, kept by John McKee, on the present site of the Cumberland House, and Fouquet's Stage House. Amos A. Prescott was the village jeweller and bookseller, and kept an establishment on the west side of Margaret Street about half way between Bridge and Brinkerhoff. Daniel Tenney had a hat store on River Street. In addition to these establishments, there were, in the village, six tailor shops, two bake shops, one marble shop, two butcher shops, six milliners and dressmakers, five boot and shoe stores, five blacksmiths, four wheelwrights, three tanners and curriers, four saddle and harness makers, four head carpenters and joiners, six head masons, three painters, two butchers, two landscape and portrait painters, two tin shops, and two barber shops, one by Doct. Thomas, who always gave his customers the "Boston touch, Sir," and the other by George Haynes, whose name, as appears from the town records, to which we have before referred, was "Sir George Provost."

Of the learned professions there were four clergymen, three physicians, and fourteen lawyers. The population of the village at this time was about 2,500.

Nearly all the buildings occupied as business establishments in 1835 have since then been burned, or have been removed to make place for larger structures.

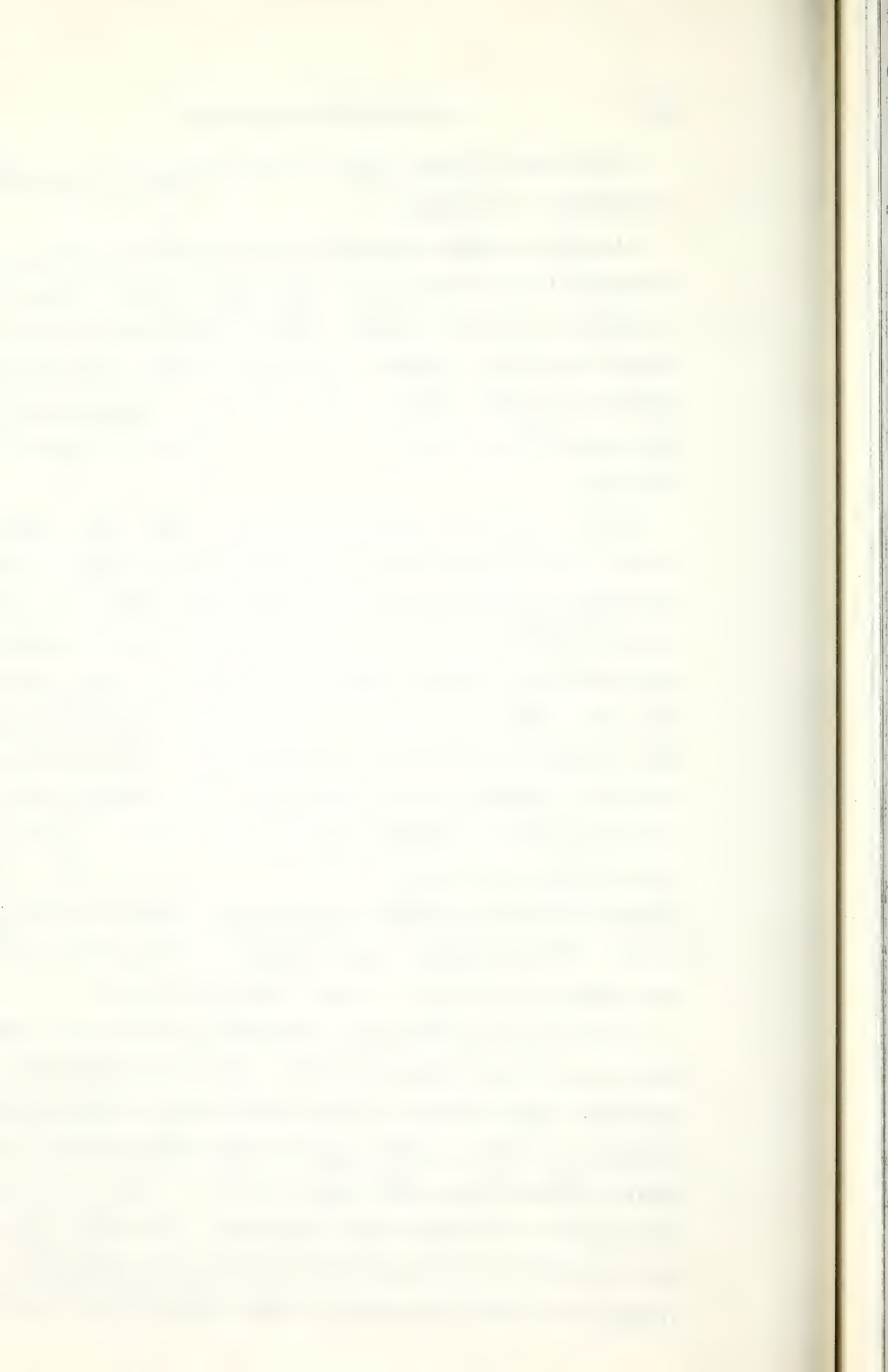


The loss by fire alone, in the village, has exceeded one million of dollars.

In the summer of 1813, the British force, under command of Col. Murray, held possession of the village for twenty-four hours, during which time they burned a block-house, the arsenal on Broad Street, the hospital buildings on the bank of the lake, two store-houses belonging to Peter Saily, and the store-house of Major N. Z. Platt.

In the month of September, 1814, while the British under Sir George Prevost, occupied the north side of the Saranac, a number of buildings which afforded protection to the British troops were burned by hot shot fired from the American works. The buildings thus destroyed by fire were the Court-House, Mr. Savage's, Mr. Buck's and Mr. Goldsmith's dwelling-houses, the store and dwelling-house of Jonathan Griffin, the store and dwelling-house of Roswell Wait, and those of Mrs. Beaumont, a dwelling-house and store owned by Charles Backus, two stores of Joseph Thomas, and Mr. Power's store—fifteen buildings in all. The dwelling-house of John L. Fouquet, on the east side of the river, was also burned this year.

The first fire within my recollection occurred on the afternoon of the 16th day of May, 1822, when the homestead of Judge William Bailey was burned to the ground. One month later, on the night of the 16th of June, the stone grist-mill was destroyed by fire. This was supposed to be the work of an incendiary, for whose detection rewards to the amount of \$1,000 were offered by Judge Levi Platt, the owner of the mill, and by citizens



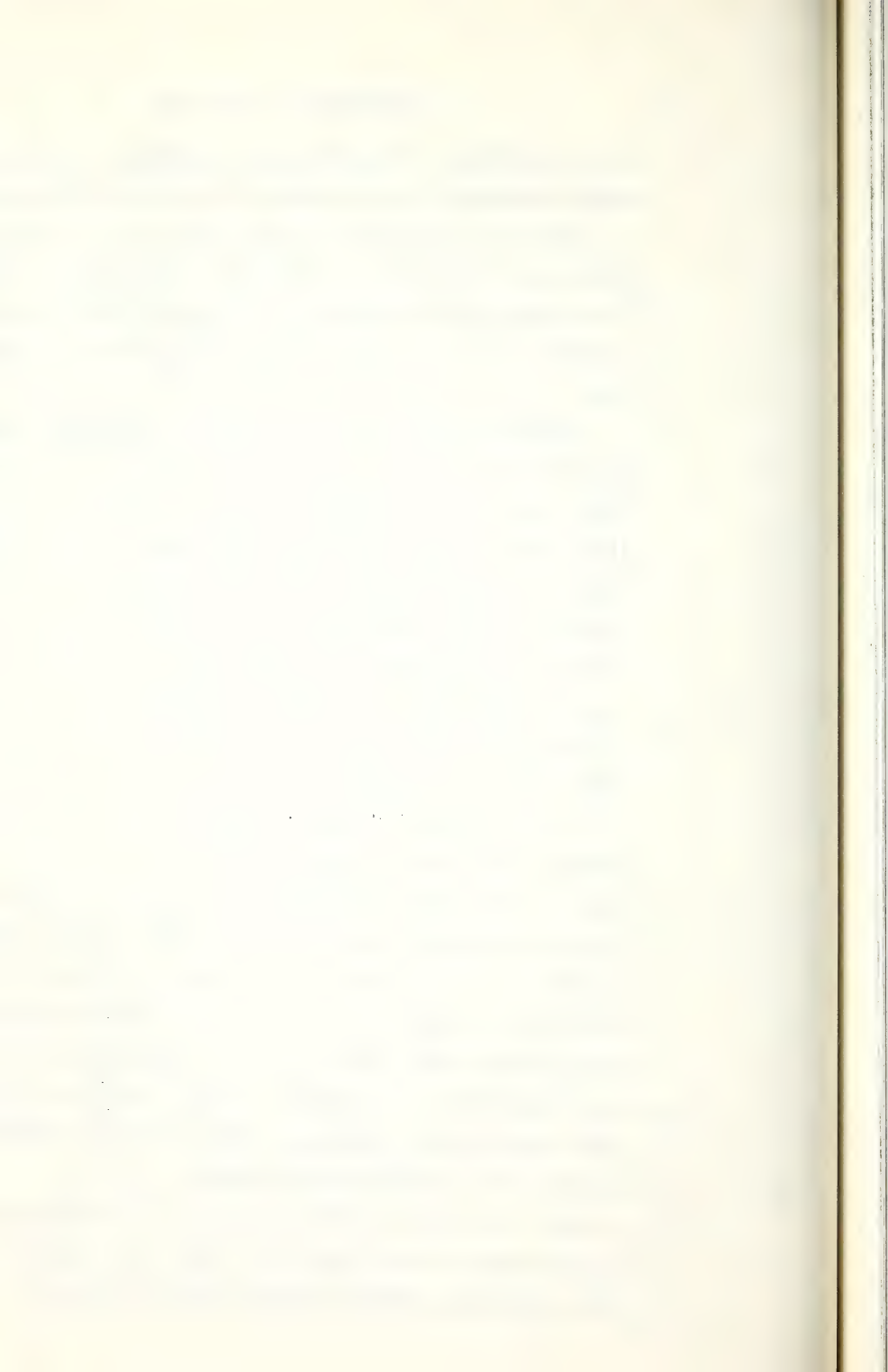
of the village. The mill was immediately rebuilt, and was in operation in the month of November following.

The next was the burning of the hotel of Joseph I. Green, on the corner of Margaret and Court Streets. The main portion, fronting on Margaret Street, was consumed. I am not able to state the precise date of this fire.

About the year 1832, the hotel of Jeremiah McCree-dy, which stood at the foot of River Street, was destroyed. This was an old-fashioned wooden building, known as the "Ark," which had long been one of the principal hotels of the village. The fire extended to and consumed a small dwelling-house on the east, and a large shed and horse barn on the west side of the hotel. During the same year, a wooden building on the south side of Bridge Street, about midway between the bridge and Mill Alley, was burned.

In the spring of 1833, a cotton factory, built by John Palmer and then occupied by Cole & Richardson, and also an old wooden building, formerly used by John Mal-lory as an oil-mill, and the old saw-mill at the west end of the dam, were destroyed. A road or causeway of the old slabs, extending from the saw-mill to the bridge, was also burned at this time. The fire extended to the western abutment of the bridge, which had been filled in with logs and pine stumps. These, having caught fire, continued to burn for several weeks.

On the 17th of May, 1836, the Court-House was for the second time destroyed. The fire caught in the shed adjoining, about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The



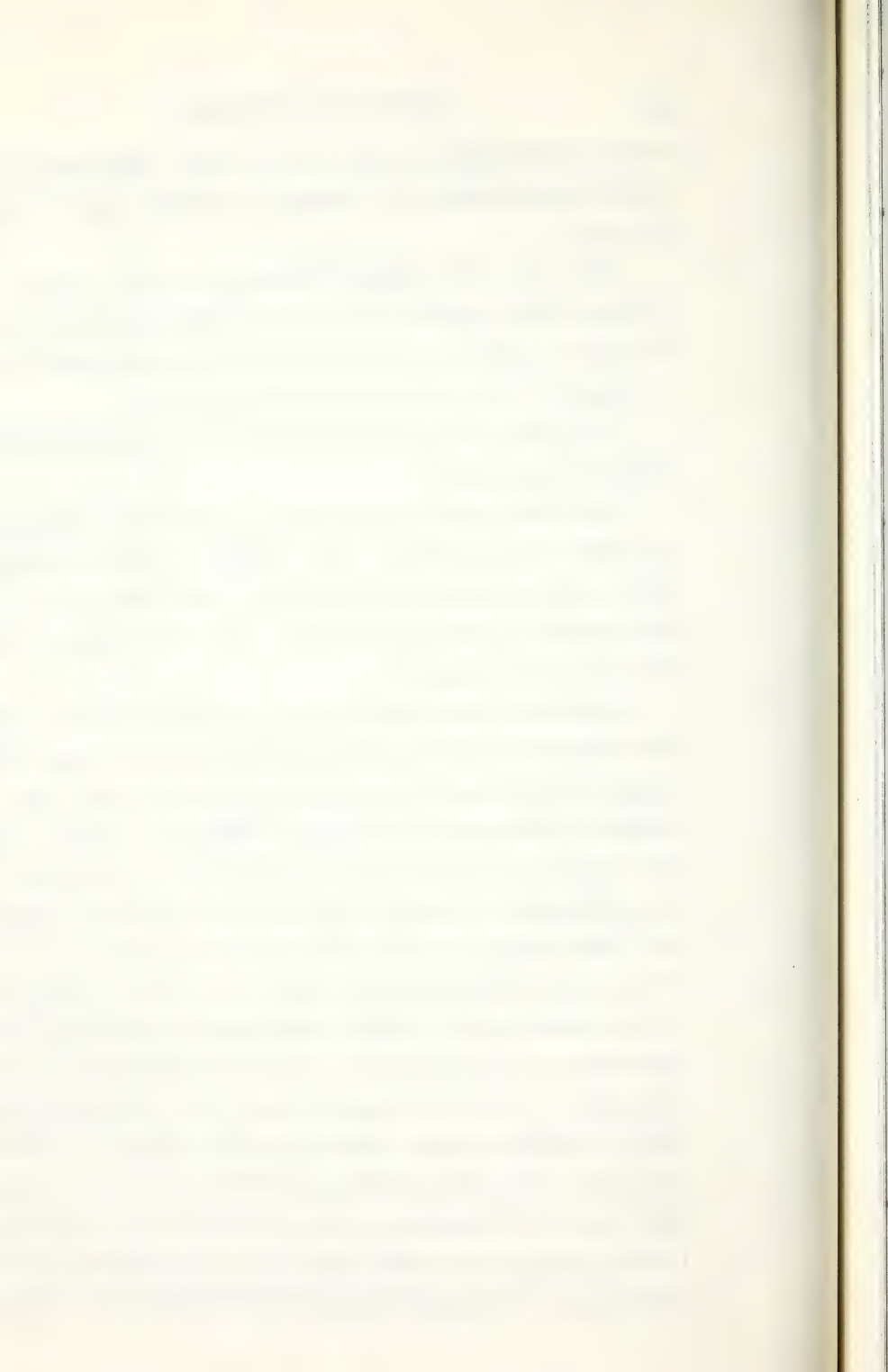
walls of the building were not injured. The inside was rebuilt, and a stone jail erected at a total cost of about \$8,000.

The store of Hugh McMurry on the corner of Bridge and Charlotte Streets, and the store of G. W. Webster, adjoining on Bridge Street, were totally destroyed by fire on the 11th day of July, 1841.

The grist mill was again destroyed by fire on Friday, September 2d, 1842.

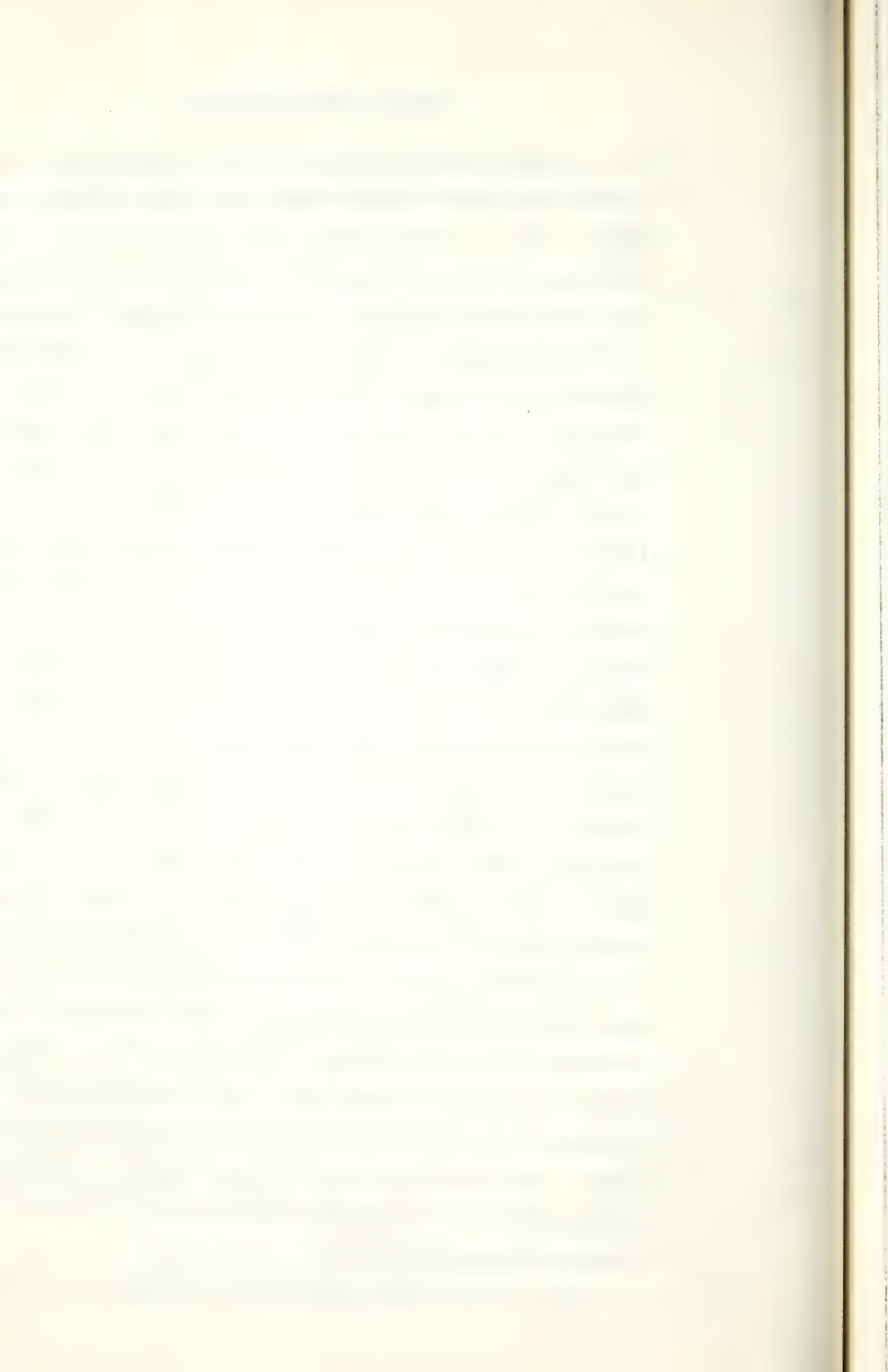
On Friday evening, January 30, 1846, the Methodist Church on Court Street was burned. This fire caught from a stove pipe in the basement. The church was rebuilt, and dedicated on Thursday, the 12th day of November, of the same year.

But these were trifling losses when compared with the destruction made by the memorable fire of August 10, 1849, which in four hours reduced to ashes the entire business portion of the village. When the alarm was first sounded the fire had made considerable progress in a small wooden building, on the corner of Bridge Street and Mill Alley (now Water Street), the ground floor of which was occupied by one Thornton, as a low *groggery*. There was but little wind at the time, and although the destruction of this building seemed inevitable, no one supposed it was the commencement of a conflagration which would consume property to the value of nearly \$300,000. From this building the fire extended to one adjoining, on Bridge Street, and also to a small wooden building adjoining on Mill Alley, both of which were soon consumed. A few feet south, on Mill Alley, was a long,



low wooden building, owned by N. P. Gregory, and used by him as a storehouse, in which was stored a large quantity of wool. The roof and sides of this building were kept wet with water, brought in pails from the mill pond, and the building saved. At about half-past 12 o'clock, the fire crossed Mill Alley, and caught in an old wooden building on the opposite corner, occupied by Godso and Shinville, as a grocery and harness shop. The whole of the east side of this building was instantly in flames. From this the fire rapidly passed to the rear of R. Cottrill's store and J. H. Mooers, drug store. No water could be procured, and it now became evident that an extensive and destructive conflagration had commenced. Moss K. Platt's drug store, on the corner of Bridge and Margaret streets, and an old wooden building adjoining on Margaret street, owned and occupied by Terance Conway, as a grocery and dwelling-house, were soon in flames. By this time a strong wind from the south was blowing, which drove the heat and flames across Bridge Street, melting the tin on the roof of a block of brick stores, owned by James Bailey, and setting the roof on fire in several places. From this block the fire divided, one line following the buildings on the west side of River Street, and the other those on the east side of Margaret Street, while at the same time the burning sparks and cinders set fire to the buildings on the south side of the Park. At two o'clock the whole square, bounded by Bridge, River and Margaret Streets and the Park, was in flames, burning furiously.

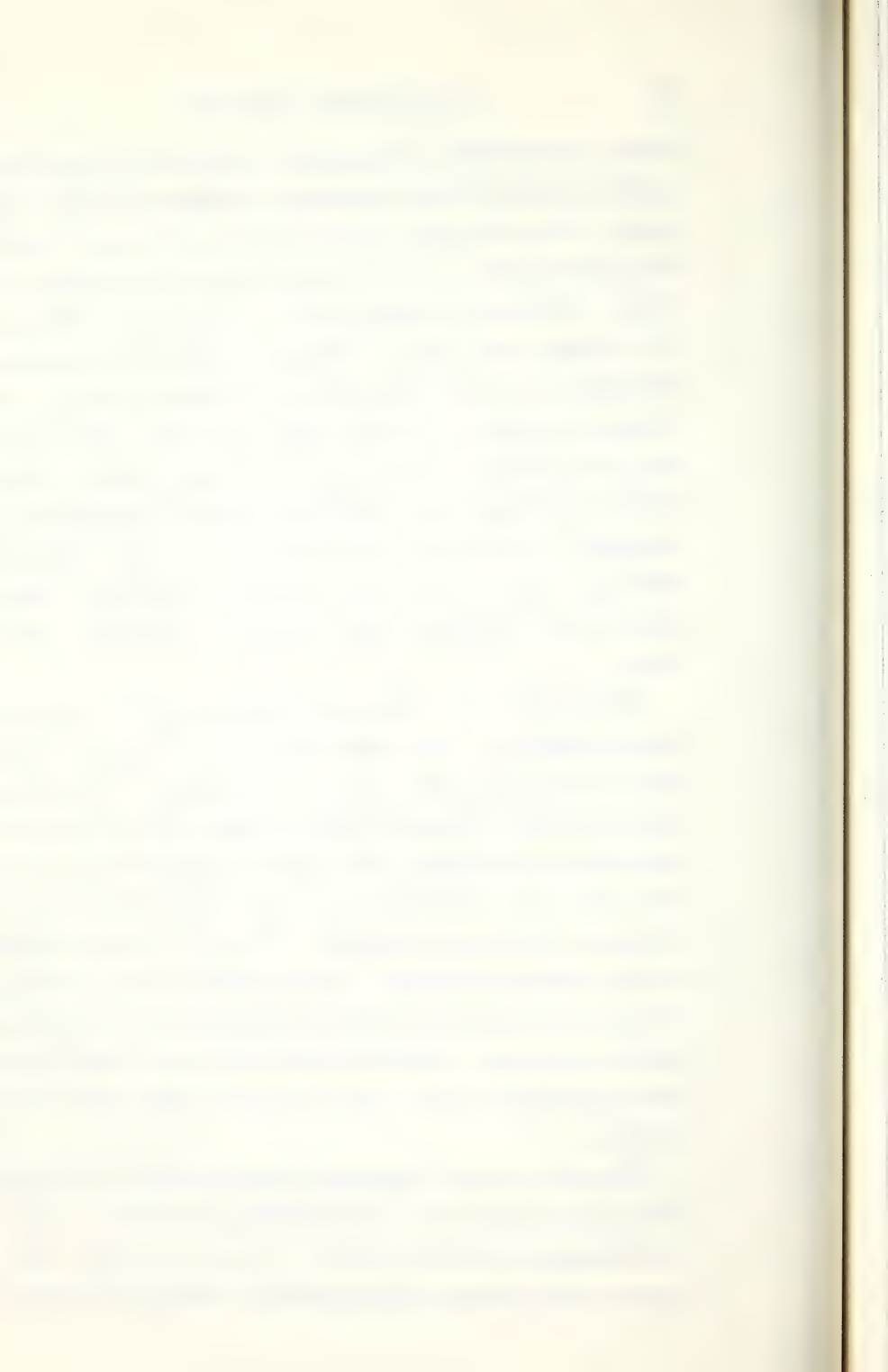
The loss on this square was as follows: on Bridge



Street, James Bailey, dry goods; Averill & Sprague, dry goods; Fitch & Cook, hardware; William K. Dana, dry goods. On Margaret Street, Amos A. Prescott, bookseller and jeweller; Guy Dunham, draper and merchant tailor; William H. Morgan & Son, dry goods; William H. Hedges, dry goods; William H. Myers, dry goods; Benedict & Buck, dry goods and boots and shoes; L. Myers, dry goods. On the Park, Firemen's Hall, with the public library, containing about 2500 volumes; Mrs. Green's dwelling-house, and Mrs. Winans' dwelling-house, occupied by tenants. On River Street, Mrs. Winans' dwelling; James Conway's dwelling; Andrew Bird's grocery and dwelling, and Lemuel F. Walker's joiner shop.

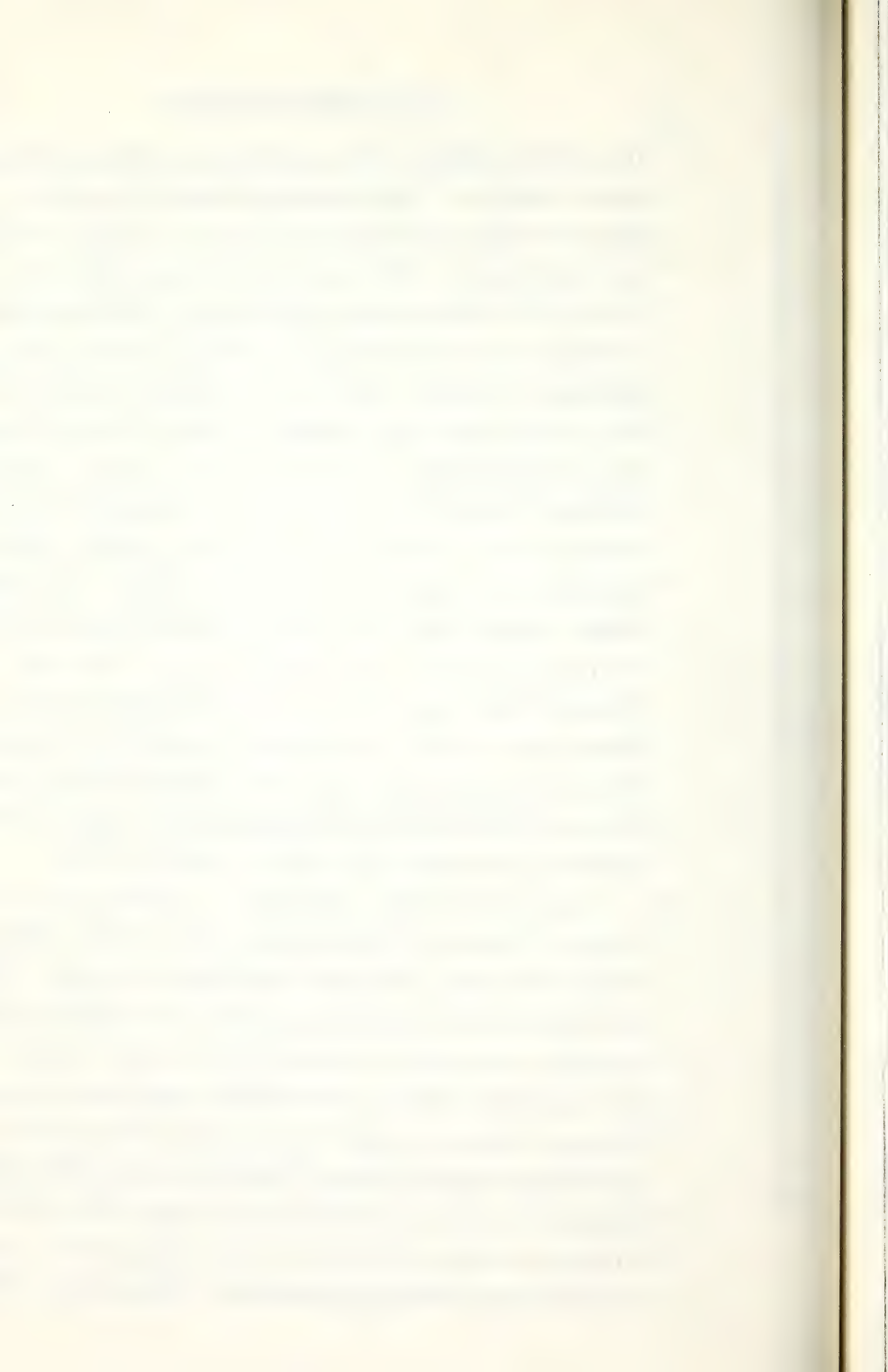
While this destruction was progressing, the fire was rapidly making its way against the wind, along the east side of Margaret Street, south of Conway's. The loss here was Alfred Hartwell's clothing store, John J. Drown's shoe store and dwelling; H. Hewitt, dry goods; L. Cooley's hat store; Nichols & Lynde, wholesale grocers; Benjamin Ketchum, dry goods; Vilas & Crosby, wholesale dry goods and tinware; Francis McCadden, clothing and dwelling, and two buildings intended for stores, only partly completed. Several store-houses and small tenement buildings in the rear on Mill Alley were also burned.

The fire crossed Margaret Street, north of Bridge Street, and caught in an old building, occupied by Ami Beauchamp, as a tailor's shop. At about the same time, it also crossed south of Bridge Street, working both ways



from these points, and extending up Church Alley for some distance. The buildings destroyed on the west side of Margaret Street, were Samuel F. Vilas's dwelling and outhouses, on the corner of Brinkerhoff Street; A. L. & G. N. Webb's store and dwelling; William Reed's jewelry shop and dwelling; Cromwell's barber shop and dwelling; J. Ricard's store and dwelling; Goslin's barber shop, bath rooms and dwelling, and Bernard Young's store and dwelling. These were all wooden buildings. William Palmer & Co., mill store in the south end of the "stone row;" Charles H. Cady, dry goods; William Douglass, dry goods; Charles C. Moore, dry goods; Caleb Nichols, dwelling; George Moore's justice office; D. Hoag's grocery; Beauchamp's tailor shop, and Dill's Phoenix hotel and barns. A dwelling-house on Court Street, west of the hotel, then occupied by George W. Palmer, was burned, as was also a small building on the corner of Brinkerhoff and Margaret Street, opposite Vilas's dwelling-house, then occupied as the Post Office.

On Church Alley, south side, a dwelling-house of B. Young; Ransom N. Richardson's wagon shop; Tierney's blacksmith shop; Roberts' blacksmith shop, and Trombly's blacksmith shop, were burned, and a small wooden building, occupied by Felix Tero was torn down. On the north side the loss was Baker's wagon shop, the old Durand house, occupied by tenants, and several other small buildings and barns. The offices of the *Plattsburgh Republican* and of the *Clinton County Whig*, were destroyed, besides several offices and shops in the second story of the buildings consumed. The progress of the



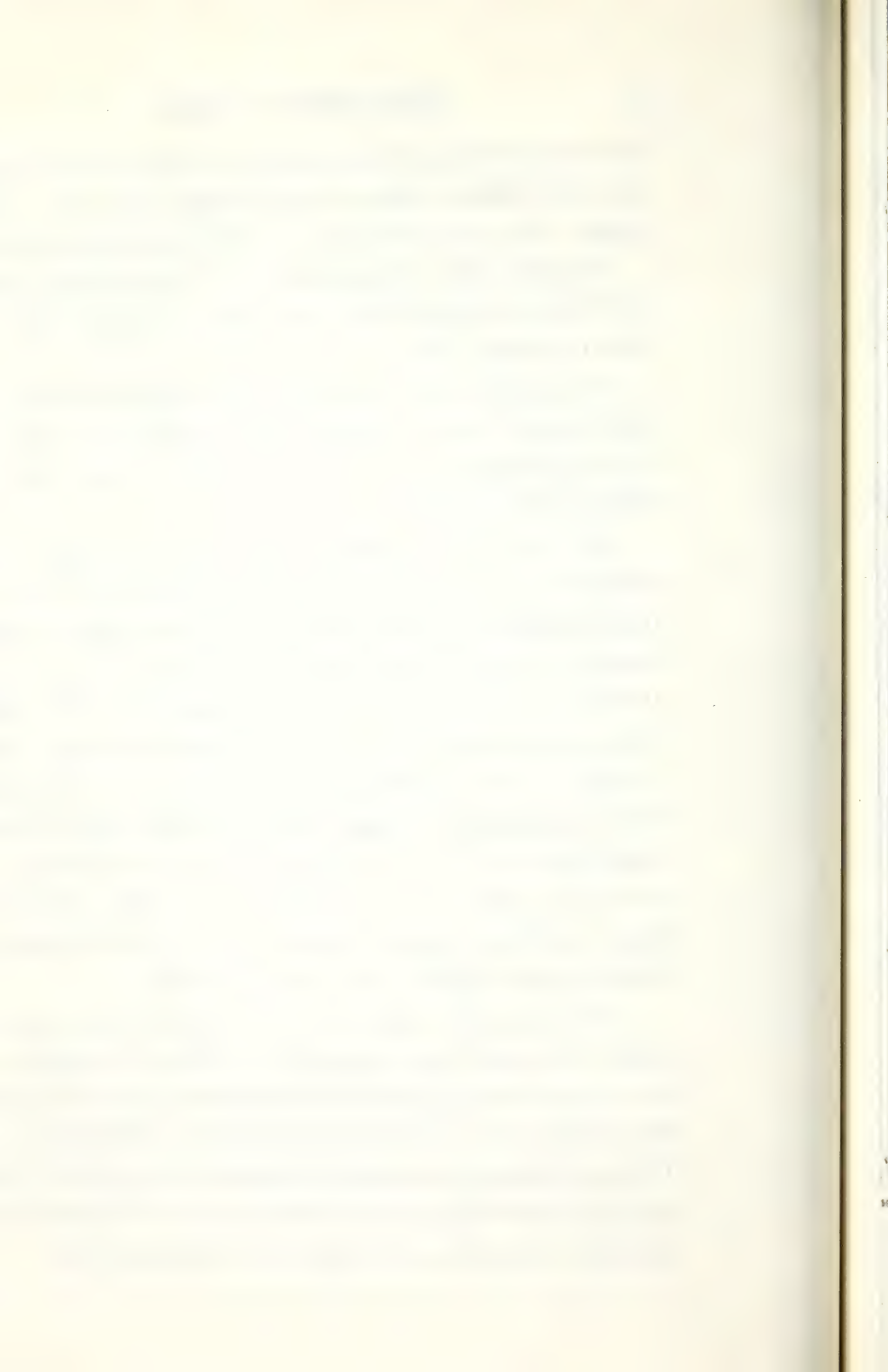
fire was arrested, on the south, by a row of stone stores, and on Church Alley by pulling down the Tero house. In other directions it seemed to exhaust itself.

The fine brick residence of M. K. Platt, on the corner of Macdonough and Macomb Street, was burned on the 18th of March, 1854.

In August, 1856, a fire destroyed a block of four stores, on Margaret street, opposite Brinkerhoff, one owned by D. S. McMasters, one by Harvey Hewitt, and two by Francis McCadden.

On the 16th December, 1861, a fire occurred, which consumed all the buildings on Bridge and River Streets, from the Bridge to the John Wells brick building, lately owned by O. A. Keyes, except the old Parsons store, on the corner of those streets, then occupied by G. W. Hornick, as a furniture store. The fire was discovered about 3 o'clock in the morning, in the basement of the store then occupied by George N. Webb, and burned three buildings owned by J. D. Warren, Mrs. Ricord's block of two stores, Paul Marshall's block of four stores, and buildings owned by Charles Barnard, John Duval, Andrew Borde, James Griffin, and Francis Senecal.

On Friday, the 29th day of May, 1863, there was another fire which consumed the old Cady homestead, at the corner of Margaret and Broad Streets, then occupied by Mr. Wolcott; the old Standish store, on the corner of Oak and Broad Streets, then occupied by George W. Day as a carpenter's shop, and a dwelling house on Broad Street, between these two, owned by Doct. Edward Kane.



June 6th, 1864, Fouquet's Hotel, on the east side of the river, was entirely destroyed by fire.

The Gas Works were burned Saturday morning, December 23d, 1865, together with the lumber sheds of Baker Brothers, adjoining. The loss was estimated at \$6000.

On Wednesday, the 21st day of August, 1867, another large and destructive conflagration occurred, which again reduced to ashes the greater portion of the business part of the village. The fire ling passed over almost the same territory destroyed in August, 1849. The fire was first discovered in the horse shed of the Presbyterian Church, and spread with great rapidity to the Church and the adjoining buildings. The Presbyterian Church was consumed, with most of its valuable furniture and the communion service. From there, the fire extended west, consuming 3 houses owned by John Wilson; B. D. Clapp's dwelling on Oak Street, and N. Nusbaum's; two houses of Wm. H. Morgan, on the corner of Oak Street and Church Alley; also the following property on that alley; L. M. Cooley's house; Henry H. Story's house; a large tenement house of M. K. Platt's, occupied by five families; Peter Malloy, Robert Turner and William Dixon's houses; a house occupied by Felix Tero, and houses occupied by Mr. Marvin, Paul Carroll, and Paul Montville, and two houses belonging to Caleb Nichol's estate; Joseph Tero's carriage shop; the blacksmith shops of Cramer, Ryan and Gonya & Roberts; Major Dolan's saloon and residence, owned by E. M. Crosby, Learment & Stave's livery stables, and Dennis Tormey's

shoe shop. On Brinckerhoff Street—two buildings in process of construction, east of the Presbyterian Church, owned by David Hooey and Francis McCadden, and also Wm. Bell's marble shop. On the west side of Margaret Street—Blake's block, near the corner of Brinckerhoff Street, occupied by M. Holcomb's hat and cap store, J. E. Morrison, drug store, and Sowles & Edwards, hardware store; William D. Morgan's store, Joseph Shiff's market, C. A. Cook's hardware store, Bernard Young's store and residence, E. Hathaway's clothing store, Edwards & Co.'s store, Breed's boot and shoe store and Wm. Reed's jewelry store in the same room, Balch's drug store, Levy's boot and shoe store, and James Griffin's saloon and residence. Here George Moore's office was partly torn down and the further progress of the fire in this direction arrested.

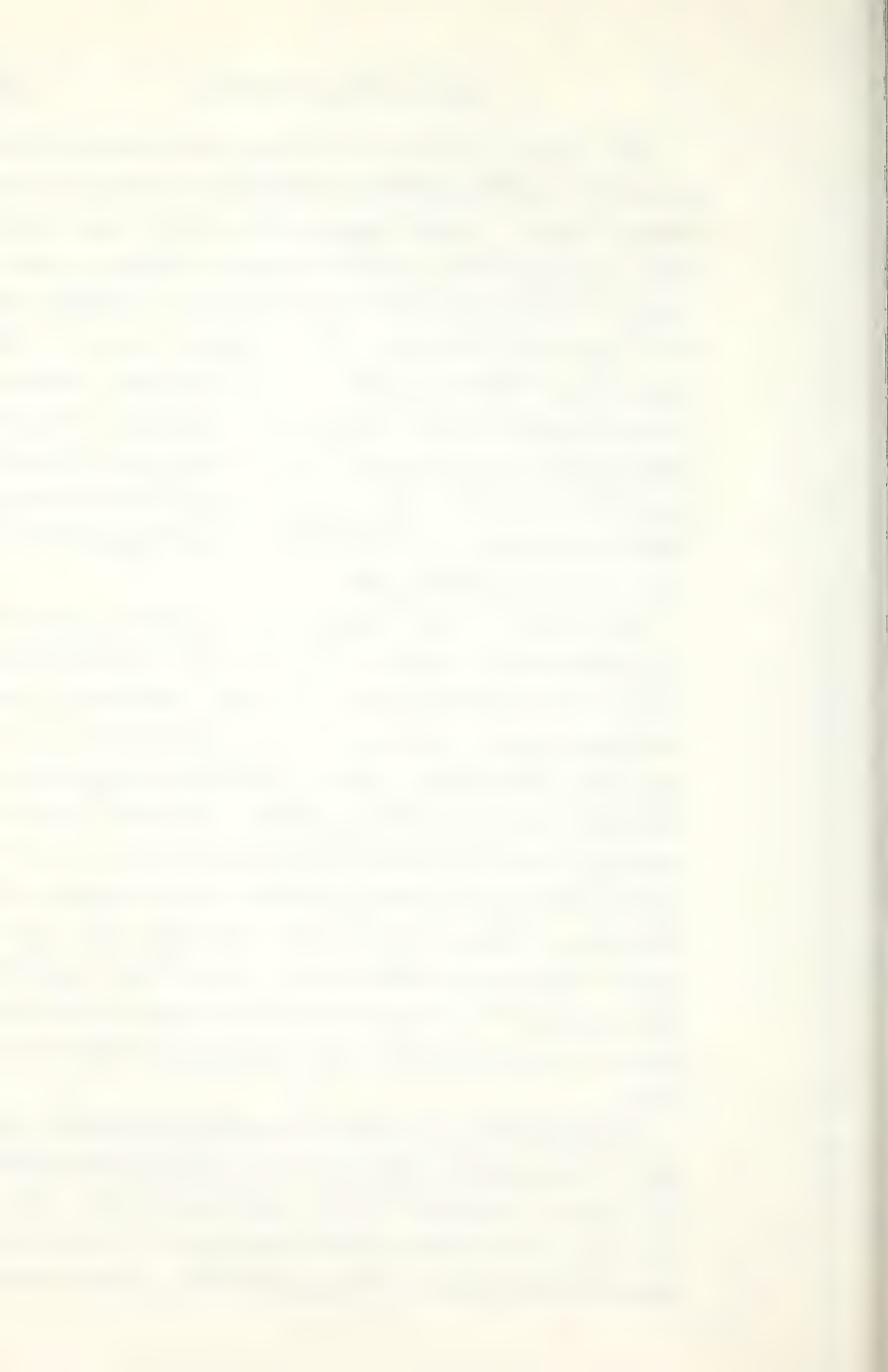
The fire crossed Margaret Street, south of Bridge Street, and burned on the east side of Margaret Street, R. O. Barber's grocery store, John Percy's grocery store, S. F. Vilas's wholesale dry goods store, F. Palmer & Co., grocery and feed store, Nichols, Lynde & Co., wholesale grocery store, Weaver & Hall's grocery store, J. H. Cottrill's clothing store, J. J. Drown's boot and shoe store, Tilley's book store, Rothschild & Co., dry goods store, and H. W. Cady & Co., drug store. On south side Bridge Street—Noel Bessett's harness shop, H. W. Guibord's grocery store, Mrs. McCann's hotel, John P. Smith's and Archers' market and residence, S. W. Gregory & Co., office—also their storehouse on Water Street. Noel's tavern on Water Street was also consumed.



The names above, are of those who occupied the ground floor of the buildings destroyed on Margaret and Bridge Streets. In the upper stories there were many offices, among which I will name the law offices of Beckwith & Dobie, Geo. L. Clark, Wm. R. Jones, M. Desmond, and Weed & Dickinson. The offices of Doct. E. M. Lyon, Doct. Wolff, and Doct. Nichols, and of C. Halsey: Howard's and Averill's photographic galleries,—Doctor Bixby's and Doctor Howard's dental rooms,—the Masonic Hall, with all its furniture,—the Library of the Young Men's Association,—J. W. Tuttle's job printing office and A. G. Carver's printing office.

The editor of the "*Plattsburgh Sentinel*" prepared and published an estimate of the loss of each individual, of which the following is the aggregate: Markets, \$1,550; hardware, \$59,000; printing offices, \$7,300; dentists, \$954; law offices, libraries, &c., \$5,200; physicians, \$5,639; boots and shoes, \$16,500; saloons, \$7,600; druggists, \$10,000; photograph galleries, \$10,000; clothing, \$10,250; harness makers, \$800; dry goods, groceries, &c., \$102,750; miscellaneous, \$28,912; real estate, \$192,893; loss by removal, exposure, and theft, \$11,013; grand total, \$469,861. The amount of insurance is stated at \$241,625, divided among 24 companies, in very unequal proportions, however.

The next fire occurred on Sunday evening, the 27th day of December, 1868, when the United States Hotel was totally consumed. This was followed, one month later, January 26, 1869, by the burning of Scheier's and Meron's brick stores, on Margaret Street. Three weeks



after this fire, on the 16th day of February, two stores in Bailey's brick block, on Bridge Street, were burned, with nearly all their contents. This fire was discovered about half past three o'clock in the morning, in Monash's clothing store. The adjoining store in the block, occupied by L. Cooley & Son, as a hat and cap store, and by Wm. Reed, temporarily, as a jeweller's store, was flooded with water and the building considerably damaged. On the 22d day of May, following, another fire destroyed the store owned by Nichols & Lynde, on Margaret St., directly opposite the buildings of Scheier and Meron, destroyed the December previous. This store was occupied by Hymen Brothers.

At 11 o'clock of the night of March 2, 1870, a fire was discovered in the basement of a building on the north side of Bridge Street, near the west end of the Bridge, owned by D. S. Holcomb and occupied by Burdo & Lanmore, as a saloon, which, with a store adjoining in the same block, owned by Bernard Young, and occupied by J. J. Drown, as a boot and shoe store, were burned.

On Monday night, March, 28, 1870, a fire was discovered in the rear of Shiff's meat market, in the stone row on Margaret Street, opposite the post office, which caused considerable damage to the building and its contents.

A fire, on Thursday night, March 23, 1871, caught in the garret of the Park House, corner of Park and River Streets, occupied by Joseph W. Daller, as a saloon and dwelling, consuming a portion of the roof and upper rooms. On Wednesday morning, March 29, about 5 o'clock, an-

other fire broke out in the same building, burning out the entire inside of the building.

On Thursday afternoon, August 22, 1871, at half-past one o'clock, a fire caught in Baker Brothers' lumber yard, on Jay Street, destroying the entire stock of lumber and the lumber sheds. The Gas Works, Frank Palmer's barn, and also five small dwelling-houses, between old and new Bridge Streets, east of Fouquet's barn. Loss about \$20,000, principally in lumber. Insurance \$15,450.

About 1 o'clock Friday morning, Aug. 25, 1871, an attempt was made to fire Morrill's Billiard Room, on Bridge Street, next east of Hornick's furniture store. It was fortunately discovered before any damage had been done. If successful, probably a number of buildings would have been consumed.

On the evening of Friday, Nov. 10, 1871, the Academy was destroyed by fire. The fire is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary.

On the 15th October, 1872, the saw mill on the north side of the river, at the upper dam was burned. The covered bridge was also burned at this time, and was replaced the next year by an iron bridge.

On the 15th of April, 1818, an act was passed, granting to John Mallory and his assignees, "the sole and exclusive right" to furnish the inhabitants of the village of Plattsburgh with water, "by means of conduits or aqueducts." The legislature were careful that Mr. Mallory should never, under this grant to furnish water, go into liquidation as a banker, for the last section of the act expressly provided, "that nothing in this act contained,

shall be so construed as to grant any banking powers or privileges whatsoever." Under this act, water was furnished to the inhabitants residing on the west side of the river, in limited and uncertain quantities until the fall of the year 1871.

On the 31st of January, 1868, a public meeting of the citizens of the village was held at the Court House, to take into consideration the subject of supplying the village with pure and wholesome water. At this meeting, a committee was appointed to draft a law, to be submitted to an adjourned meeting of the citizens. This committee reported at the appointed time, and the terms of an act to be submitted to the Legislature was adopted. The act was passed by the Legislature on the 17th of April, 1868. [Laws 1868, p. 502.]

By this act, the trustees of the village were authorized to appoint a Board of Commissioners, consisting of three persons, whose duty it was made to prepare a plan, to be submitted to the taxable electors of the village, who were to express, by vote, their assent or refusal to the prosecution of the work. If a majority of the electors, voting, should be in favor of the plan submitted, the trustees were authorized to ratify such conditional contracts as the commissioners may have made for the purchase of land and the purchase of the old water works, and to raise upon the bonds of the village, a sum necessary to complete the works according to the plan adopted, but not to exceed five thousand dollars over the estimated cost as reported by the commissioners. The act vested in the commissioners the sole and exclusive control of

the construction of the works, and they were to hold office until the works were so far completed as to be in operation, when the control and management were to be transferred to a superintendent, to be appointed by the Board of Trustees.

On the 15th of June, 1868, James H. Totman, Silas W. Gregory, and Benjamin M. Beckwith, were appointed Water Commissioners. They reported a plan, on the 11th day of August, which was adopted by a vote of the electors of the village, and the commissioners were directed to enter into contracts for the construction of the works.

The commissioners estimated the probable cost of the work at \$94,965.56, as follows:

Scribner pond and water right,	\$2,500 00
Bulkhead at dam, with stop gate,	200 00
Pipe from pond to reservoir,	16,000 00
Reservoir and site,	6,500 00
44,732 feet cement pipe,	40,633 31
64,529 feet trenching and backfilling,	16,132 25
40 hydrants, freight and setting,	2,200 00
Stop gates,	1,400 00
Freight on pipe,	2,000 00
Purchase of old water works,	6,400 00
Engineering,	1,000 00

\$94,965.56.

As the work progressed, it was found that many items of expense had been omitted in the estimate, and that some of the estimates were below the necessary cost of

the work required. It was also deemed advisable to change the details of the plan in several particulars. A double reservoir was built on the Hammond hill, instead of a single one, as at first contemplated. The size of some of the mains were increased, and mains laid in streets, not at first intended to be supplied. Distributing pipe had also to be laid from the mains to the line of lots, and a well house and waste drain constructed at the reservoir, for which no estimate had been made. The number of hydrants was increased from 40 to 60, in order to afford more complete fire protection throughout the village.

These changes and additions were made by the Commissioners, after consulting with the Board of Trustees, and were considered necessary in order to carrying out the original intention of the citizens to provide for the whole village an abundant and unfailing supply of water for domestic use and for protection from fires. To meet the increased expense, the Trustees were authorized to issue additional bonds to the amount of \$80,000. [Chapter 326, laws of 1870, and chapter 60, laws of 1871.]

The mains having been completed, the office of Water Commissioner was abolished, on the 27th day of December, 1870, and Silas W. Gregory was appointed Superintendent of Water Works.

In the construction of the works there was laid 62,404 lineal feet of cement pipe, and 11,702 lineal feet of tile pipe—in all fourteen miles and one hundred and eighty-six feet. Of the cement pipe,

5.344 feet is 2 inches in diameter.

23,096	"	4	"	"
5,453	"	6	"	"
12,822	"	8	"	"
5,574	"	10	"	"
10,115	"	12	"	"

Forty-nine stop gates of different sizes, and 60 fire hydrants have been set. The cost of the iron pipe, socket joint, used for conducting the water across the river was \$1,440.07 and there has been expended in conducting the water from the mains to the lots of consumers, the sum of \$11,118.70.

The bonds issued to defray the expense of construction, are payable as follows :

July 1, 1878,	\$7,850
" 1879,	18,550
" 1881,	22,950
" 1883,	13,000
" 1884,	15,000
" 1885,	4,000
" 1888,	30,000
Jan'y 1, 1889,	37,150
July 1, 1890,	4,000
" 1891,	27,500

The number of consumers in 1872 was about 675. 200 buildings pay a fire protection. The revenue for the year 1871, was \$11,290.95, as follows: First quarter, \$2,632.38; second quarter, \$2,843.89; third quarter, \$2,938.09; fourth quarter, \$2,876.64.

Although the cost of the water works has been heavy, our citizens will never have any real cause to complain

of the outlay. It will be returned by a decreased expense of insurance, the additional protection from fires, and the great convenience and comfort to be derived from an abundant supply of water at all times for domestic use.

The two distributing Reservoirs are located at Hammond's, about two and one-half miles west from the Court House, and 214 feet above the surface of Margaret Street. The north Reservoir is 156 feet by 160 feet at the top, and 104 feet by 108 feet at the bottom, and is 13 feet deep. Its capacity, when filled to a point two feet from the top, is 1,391,130 standard gallons. The south Reservoir is 160 feet by 162 feet at the top, and 108 feet by 110 feet at the bottom, and is also 13 feet deep. With 11 feet of water it holds 1,487,906 gallons. When filled to the top the united capacity of both is 3,596,000 gallons. The outside embankments have a slope of 2 to 1 both inside and outside, and are 13 feet wide at the top.

The supply of water must for years be equal to all the wants of the inhabitants of the village. With three millions of gallons of water held in deposit at Hammond's, and ready to be poured out at any part of the village under a pressure of ninety-five pounds to the square inch, the Fire King will not again hold a saturnalia in our streets, as he did in 1849 and 1867.

CHURCHES.

Presbyterian.—On the 10th day of November, 1792, a public meeting was held at the Block House, for the purpose of "choosing trustees to take in charge the temporalities of the congregation of the town, and to form a

corporation by the name and style of the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church or Congregation, of the town of Plattsburgh, and to call a minister." At this meeting, John Addams, Charles Platt, Nathaniel Platt, Melancton L. Woolsey, John Ransom, and Nathan Averill, were chosen trustees. [Record of Deeds, Liber A., p. 285.] Nothing further was done at this time, but two years afterwards, the Rev. Frederick Halsey, then a licenciate of the Presbytery of Long Island, visited this place, and for a short time preached from house to house. He settled here permanently in the fall of that year (1794), was installed as pastor in February, 1796, and in the month of October, following, organized the first church in this section of the country. The church then consisted of eighteen persons, to whom the Lord's Supper was for the first time administered on the 1st day of October, 1797. The names of these eighteen, who formed the pioneer church of Northern New York, were, Ezekiel Hubbard, John Stratton, Abner Pomroy, William and Mrs. Badlam, Moses Corbin, Elizabeth Addams, Catherine Hageman, Catherine Marsh, Lucretia Miller, Phebe Platt, Esther Stratton, Mary Addams, Stephen and Mrs. Mix, Martha Coe, William Pitt Platt, and John Culver. [Dobie's Discourses.]

A public meeting was again held in October, 1803, at the Court House, "where the Rev. Mr. Halsey's congregation stately met for public worship," and the society was there reorganized under the statute. At this meeting, Deacons Ezekiel Hubbard and William Pitt Platt, presided. The trustees elected were John Addams,

Melancton L. Woolsey, Benjamin Mooers, John Howe, Thomas Miller, and Benjamin Barber. [Record of Deeds, Liber B., 518.] Owing to some informality in the proceedings, a third organization of the society was effected on the 19th day of March, 1810, when Melancton Smith, John G. Freleigh, Elias Woodruff, Sebe Thompson, Jonathan Griffin, William Pitt Platt, and Benjamin Mooers, were elected trustees. [Record of Deeds, D., 99.] In this year the Rev. Mr. Halsey resigned his charge over the church, which had now increased to eighty-five members. The church remained without a pastor until February 6th, 1812, when the Rev. William R. Weeks was installed. [Dobie, 200.] It was about this time that efforts were first made for the erection of a church building.

In June, 1812, Abraham Brinkerhoff, Jr., conveyed to the society a lot of land fronting on Brinkerhoff street [Record of Deeds, D., 386], and the work upon the foundation of the building was immediately commenced. Owing, however, to the interruptions occasioned by the military operations on this frontier during that and the two succeeding years, the building was not completed until the fall of 1816. Its total cost was about \$10,000. [Plattsburgh *Republican*, Dec., 1816.] It is said that the success of the undertaking was owing to the unwearied labors and self-denial of Elder William Pitt Platt. [Dobie, 206.] The pews were sold on the 19th of December, 1816, under the supervision of Benjamin Mooers, Melancton L. Woolsey, and Levi Platt, a committee appointed for that purpose, and brought at auction about \$12,000. On the 25th of the same month, the church

was dedicated; the Rev. Nathaniel Hewitt, who, in July, 1815, had succeeded Mr. Weeks, preaching the sermon, and the Rev. Dr. Austin, President of the University of Vermont, offering the dedicatory prayer. [Dobie, 206. *Plattsburgh Republican*, Dec. 14 and 28, 1816.]

At the time of the completion of this building, there was no other church edifice in this county, and none in the counties of Essex, Franklin or St. Lawrence. It was the mother of churches in Northern New York, and stood a witness to the liberality and christian faith of our forefathers, until destroyed by fire, on the morning of the 21st of August, 1867.¹

Mr. Hewitt was dismissed in October, 1817, and the Rev. S. W. Whelpley installed in his place, on the 11th day of March, 1818, dismissed in July, 1822, and re-installed in February, 1823. Mr. Whelpley was succeeded by the Rev. Moses Chase, who was ordained and installed on the 22d day of February, 1826. He continued as pastor over this church until May, 1835, his place being supplied during an absence of about one year, in 1833-34, by the Rev. Abraham D. Brinkerhoff. The Rev. B. B. Newton was installed in July, 1836, and remained three years. He was succeeded by the Rev. L. Reed, who was installed in February, 1840, and *deposed* in November, 1843.

On the 28th day of February, 1844, the Rev. David Dobie became pastor of this church, and remained in

¹ Other religious societies had however, been organized within this territory. The First Presbyterian Church of Champlain was organized on the 8th of September, 1804 (Record of Deeds, Liber C., p. 27); that of Chazy, on the 22d March, 1805 (Liber C., 81); and that of Mooers on the 1st of August, 1807 (Liber C. 257). The first Baptist Society of Plattsburgh, was organized on the 23d day of October, 1811.

charge until compelled, by reason of ill health, to ask for his dismissal, in October, 1855. Mr. Dobie was succeeded by the Rev. Edward B. Chamberlin, who remained until June 16, 1858. On the 23d day of February, 1859, the Rev. John B. Young was installed and was dismissed, in January, 1863. He was succeeded by the Rev. Dr. Edwin A. Bulkley, who was installed November 15, 1864. During a portion of the year 1863 and 1864, the pulpit was temporarily supplied by the Rev. Francis B. Hall. In the autumn of 1864, a new society, composed of a portion of the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church, was organized, under the name of the Peristrome Church of Plattsburgh, over which the Rev. Mr. Hall was installed as pastor.

In the summer of 1865 the interior of the church building was remodded throughout at a cost of nearly \$10,000. The building was totally destroyed by fire in August, 1867. Preparations were immediately made to rebuild, and on the 17th June, 1868, the corner stone was laid with appropriate ceremonies and the building was completed and dedicated on the 8th of July, 1873. The entire cost of the building and its furniture, including bell and organ, was about \$56,000. The chapel rooms in the basement had been completed in October, 1869, and were immediately used for public worship, the congregation having until that time worshipped in the old Academy. The building is constructed of blue and grey limestone, extreme length 120 feet, extreme width 66 feet, height of tower and spire 200 feet above street grade.

Methodist.—The first Methodist preacher known to

have visited the country 'bordering on the west side of Lake Champlain, was the Rev. Richard Jacobs, who was in Clinton County in 1796, where he remained several weeks, preaching to the few inhabitants scattered along the borders of the lake. I cannot ascertain whether he came as far north as Plattsburgh. He was drowned while attempting to ford the Schroon river, on his return to his home at Clifton Park. [Park's Troy Conference miscellany, 35.]

In 1779, a circuit was formed, called the "Plattsburgh Circuit," which was placed under the sole charge of the Rev. Alexander McLane as "itinerant." It included the whole territory west of the lake. The next year the Rev. Elijah Hedding was licensed to preach, and was sent to this circuit. He remained on the circuit, at this time, about six weeks, and is said to have preached his first sermon in a cabin on the west side of Cumberland Head. [Ib., 43.]

Mr. Hedding returned in 1801, and with the Rev. Elijah Chichester, remained one year, "travelling 300 miles every month, from Ticonderoga into Canada, and preaching every day." They were succeeded the next year by the Rev. Daniel Brumley and the Rev. Laben Clark, and the circuit was afterwards supplied, from year to year, by others. In 1811, this district was under the charge of the Rev. Jacob Beeman and the Rev. Heman Garlick. It was in this year that Bishop Ashbury preached in this village, while on his tour through Vermont and Northern New York. [Park's miscellany, 59.]

In the spring of the year 1813, a Methodist Episcopal

Church was organized in the town of Peru, of which Edmund Clark, John Morehouse, Nathan Ferris, Solomon Clark, Joel Clark and John Sheppard, were the trustees. [Record of Deed, Liber D., 490.] A Methodist society was organized in Chazy, in Oct., 1818, with Alexander Scott, Thomas Cooper, William Churchill, Solomon Fisk, David Hatch, Willard Hyde, Stillman Buckman, Thomas Dickinson and James Boudett, as trustees. [Ib., Liber. F., 165.] But it was not until about the year 1816 or 1817, that any efforts were made to form a society in this village. About this time, Shelden Durkee, Ann Durkee, Mary Bacon, Maria Haynes, Polly Averill, Patience Miller, John Wells and Michael McDermott, joined the church, but no class was organized until November 19, 1819, when David Brock was appointed leader. At this time the society had been increased, by the addition to its members of John Addams and his wife, David Brock, Philena Brock, Phebe Edgerton, Ann Smith, and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph I. Green. [Manuscript notes of Rev. Stephen D. Brown.] Still no regular station was organized in the village until the year 1826, when the Rev. James Quinlan was located here. He remained two years and was succeeded by the Rev. Orrin Pier, who was followed, in 1829, by the Rev. Bartholomew Creagh, and by the Rev. Truman Seymour in 1831. Until 1831, the public services of the church had been held in the Court House, but during the charge of Mr. Seymour, the society removed to the church building, on Court street. [This building was destroyed by fire in January, 1846, and was rebuilt the next season.] Mr. Seymour remained here until 1833.

Since that time the following clergymen have been stationed in this village: Ephraim Goss, 1833-4; Benjamin Marvin, 1834-6; James Caughey, 1836-7; Spencer Mattison, 1837-8; Lyman Prindle, 1838-40; Hiram Meeker, 1840-42; Andrew Witherspoon, 1842-4 and 1858-60; Stephen Parks, 1844-6; Stephen D. Brown, 1846-8; Ensign Stover, 1848-50; S. P. Williams, 1850-52; John E. Bowen, 1852-4 and 1864-5; R. H. Robinson, 1854-6; Halsey W. Ransom, 1856-8; Joseph K. Cheeseman, 1860-62 and 1868-9; Elisha Watson, 1862-4; Frederick Widmer, 1865-7; David P. Hurlburd, 1867; S. R. Bailey, 1870 and '71. S. W. Merrill succeeded Mr. Widmer, but was suspended after being here a few weeks. C. R. Hawley, 1872 and '73, M. B. Mead, 1874 and '75; and A. J. Ingalls, the present incumbent, in 1876.

Episcopal.--An Episcopal Society was informally organized in this village on the 30th September, 1821, but there were no regular continued services of the Church until March, 1822, when the Rev. Joel Clapp was called to the rectorship of the parish. Mr. Clapp was succeeded by the Rev. William Shelton, in August, 1823, who was succeeded by the Rev. Mr. Davis, in December, 1826, who remained a short time. The Church was without a Rector for several years after Mr. Davis left, and during this time the members usually attended the services of the Methodist Church. A church building was erected in the year, 1830 and on the 6th day of September, of the same year, Trinity church was incorporated, with James Bailey and Frederick L. C. Saily as wardens, and

St. John B. L. Skinner, Samuel Beaumont, William F. Haile, William F. Halsey, Samuel Emery, George Marsh, John Palmer and John Lynde as vestrymen. [Record of Deeds, Liber 2, 227.]

In May, 1831, the Rev. Anson Hard was called to the rectorship. The church was consecrated on the 27th day of July of that year. Prior to their removal to this building the Society had met for worship at the Academy or at the Court House. Mr. Hard was succeeded in the spring of 1832 by the Rev. J. Howland Coit, who remained in charge of the parish until August, 1844, when he removed to Harrisburg, Penn. After the departure of Dr. Coit the pulpit was not permanently supplied until November, 1845, when the Rev. Thomas Mallaby accepted the rectorship. He remained here until December, 1849, and in March following was succeeded by the Rev. Joseph Ransom, who continued in charge of the parish until the first day of January, 1852. In April, of that year, Dr. Coit returned from Pennsylvania and renewed his connection with the parish, over which he remained until his death, on the 1st day of October, 1866. For more than twenty-six years he watched faithfully over his people in this vicinage. The Rev. William M. Ogden, who had officiated as assistant minister since the spring of that year, was called to the rectorate on the 27th of October, 1866. He resigned his charge over the parish in May, 1869, and was succeeded by the Rev. Henry McClory, who resigned in December, 1870. The pulpit was temporarily supplied by the Rev. Charles Fay, of Grand Isle, Vermont, until the Rev. John H. Hopkins, S.T.D., the present incumbent, was called to the rectorate.

Roman Catholic Church.—This Church was first organized in this village about the year 1827, when the Rev. Patrick McGilligan was placed in charge; but prior to that time occasional services had been held here by Rev. Father Mignault, of Chambly, and by Fathers Donagan and O'Callaghan. The first Mass is said to have been celebrated at the private residence of Hugh McGuire, who then resided on Broad street.

Father McGilligan died in November, 1828. During his residence here, and until St. John's church was completed, the congregation met for public worship in the "red store," on Cumberland avenue, which had been fitted up as a chapel. Father McGilligan was succeeded by the Rev. Father Mannigan, who remained a few months only, and was succeeded by the Rev. Father Rogers, who was here in the winter of 1834-5. After him came Father Rafferty, who was here a short time, when the Rev. Father Rafferty was placed in charge of the parish. He was succeeded by the Rev. Father Burns, who died in April, 1836.

In April, 1834, the congregation purchased of Judge John Palmer a lot on the corner of Cornelia and River streets, on which to erect a church building. The conveyance was made to Hugh McMurray and Edward Kelley. On the 1st of May, 1836, a meeting of the congregation was held at the regular place of public worship, at which time the church was incorporated under the name of the "First Roman Catholic Church of the town of Plattsburgh," and Patrick Foy, William Eagan, Richard Cullen, Michael Kearney, James Trowlan, John Hogan, Barney McWil-

liams, Michael Ryan and Christopher Sherlock elected as trustees. On the next day McMurray and Kelley conveyed to the trustees the lot purchased of Judge Palmer, and the erection of St. John's church was soon after commenced.

The Rev. George Drummond was in charge of the parish at this time. He died in Canada in the fall of the year 1839, while on a tour among the parishes collecting funds for the building. Father Drummond was succeeded by the Rev. Father Rooney, who remained here until the fall of 1854. The church building was completed under his administration, and was dedicated by the Right Rev. Bishop Hughes, on Sunday, September 25th, 1842. Father Rooney was much beloved, not only by his own parishioners, but by the citizens of the village of the other religious denominations. Under his care the Church increased rapidly. The records show the number of baptisms between October, 1839, and June, 1847, to have been 1,013.

Father Rooney was succeeded by the Rev. Father Kinney, who remained here until the fall of 1856, when the Rev. Father Cahill was placed in charge. He was succeeded on the 25th of May, 1860, by the Rev. Richard J. Maloney, the present incumbent.

On the 27th day of May, 1869, the Church was re-incorporated under the act of 1863 [Chapter 45], by the name of "St. John the Baptist's Church of Plattsburgh," with the Right Rev. John J. Conroy, Bishop of the Diocese of Albany, the Very Reverend Edgar P. Wadhams, Vicar General of the Diocese, and Richard J.

Maloney, Pastor of the Church, and two laymen, as trustees. The laymen first appointed as trustees were Bernard McKeever and Patrick K. Delaney.

In the spring of 1867, several village lots, fronting on Margaret, Broad and Oak streets, were conveyed to Bishop Conroy, and by him conveyed to the new corporation in May, 1870. Upon these lots the corporation commenced the erection of a new church building, the corner stone of which was laid with appropriate ceremonies by the Bishop of Albany, on the first day of July, 1868. This building was occupied by the Congregation during the winter of 1874-5, and was dedicated August 17th, 1875, by Bishop Wadhams of the Diocese of Ogdensburgh, assisted by Bishop Grosbriand of the Diocese of Vermont, Bishop Wadhams preaching in the morning and Bishop Grosbriand in the evening.

The slating of the roof was put on in the fall of 1871. The building is cruciform; length, 201 feet; the transept, 84 feet; height inside, 90 feet. The tower and spire will be 250 feet in height, built of masonry and surmounted by a stone cross. The work has been prosecuted from the beginning under the watchful eye of Father Maloney, to whose untiring energy and devotion we shall, in a great measure, be indebted for the largest and most imposing church edifice in Northern New York.

In 1853 the French Canadians, who until this time had attended the services at the St. John's Church, were formed into a separate congregation, under the immediate charge of the Oblate Fathers, the Rev. John P. Bernard and Claude F. M. Sallaz, and soon after commenced

the erection of a church building on Cornelia street. This Church was incorporated under the name of "St. Peter's Church, of Plattsburgh," on the 16th day of December, 1855, with Joseph Fountain, Isaac Jourdain, Damien LaForce, Lewis Chaurain and Lewis St. Michell as trustees. On Sunday, November 19th, 1865, the church was dedicated by Bishop Conroy, assisted by seventeen priests, Father G. Thibault of Longueil, C. E., having preached the dedicatory sermon. Father Bernard was succeeded by the Rev. Father Garin, and soon afterwards Father Sallaz was appointed the sole presiding priest of the church and parish, and retained that position until the summer of 1870, when he was transferred to Buffalo. He was succeeded by the Rev. Father Charles Bournigalle, who, in October, 1873, was succeeded by Father Trudeau, the present incumbent. On the 17th of October, 1869, the Church was re-organized, under the act of 1863, with Peter St. Louis and Damien LaForce as the lay trustees. In November, 1869, the trustees of the old corporation conveyed the church property held by them to the trustees of the new corporation. St Peter's church is a large and imposing edifice. To the west and adjoining it is the Mission House belonging to the "Oblate Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception," a corporation created in April, 1871 [Laws, Chap. 418], having for its object the religious instruction of the people, the formation and direction of parishes, the education of clergyman, the work of missions in this State, and the moral and religious education of poor and orphan children. In this mission house the Presiding Priest of the

parish and his assistants reside. Upon the opposite side of St. Peter's church, is the Convent D'Youville belonging to the sisterhood of the Grey Nuns. "The Sisterhood of Grey Nuns" was incorporated April 6, 1871. The members of the Society devote themselves to the education of the young, visiting and alleviating the wants of the poor and sick, and general missionary and benevolent work. One of the expressed objects of their charter is the foundation of an industrial school for girls out of employment.

Jewish Synagogue.—On the first day of September, 1861, a society was incorporated under the name of the "Jewish Congregation of Plattsburgh," with William Cane as President; Levi Gold, Vice President; A. Peyser, Secretary; Solomon Monash, Treasurer, and Hyman Monash, Caesar Peck and Seleg Levi, trustees. Regular services were first held by Rabbi Jacob Ehrich, who came here in September, 1862, and who was succeeded by Rabbi Julius Weil in September, 1864. Mr. Weil was succeeded by Rabbi S. Bernheim, in May, 1867, who remained here one year, when Rabbi Jacob L. Myer, the present incumbent, was placed in charge of the congregation.

On the 4th April, 1866, the Society purchased of the trustees of the First Universalist Church, their lot and church building on Oak street, and fitted it up as a place for public worship.

F85

6

6

5614

